

THE NATION

AND ATHENÆUM

VOL. XLIV.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1929.

No. 20

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
EVENTS OF THE WEEK	675	REVIEWS:—	
MR. CHURCHILL'S FLESH CREEPS	678	Among the Ghosts. By Edmund Blunden	690
THE BANK RATE: FIVE-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. By J. M. Keynes	679	New Novels. By Lyn Ll. Irvine	690
THE TEMPORAL POWER	680	President Hoover	692
LIFE AND POLITICS. By Kappa	681	Leibniz and Spinoza. By C. E. M. Joad	694
THE LESSON (AFTER KINGSLEY—AND SOUTH BATTERSEA). By H. P.	683	Darley as Poet and Critic. By Sherard Vines	696
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: "God or Mammon in East Africa" (J. H. Oldham); The East African Report (John H. Harris); "Women and the Hospitals" (E. Graham Little); Banks and Trade (Joseph O'Neill); Disestablishment (Liberationist); The Communion and Confirmation ("Parishioner") Examinations (Dorothy Matthews); Stendhal's "Armance" (C. K. Scott Moncrieff); Russian Novelists (Ernest H. R. Collings)	683-685	The Warton Lecture	696
THE PRESENT POSITION OF LANGUAGE TEACHING. I.—LATIN OR GREEK? By James Herbert	685	ON THE EDITOR'S TABLE	698
DUNCAN GRANT. By Richard Sickert, A.R.A.	687	BOOKS IN BRIEF	698
PLAYS AND PICTURES. By Omicron	687	AUCTION BRIDGE. By Caliban	698
THE WORLD OF BOOKS:—		NEW GRAMOPHONE RECORDS	700
"Force is No Remedy." By Leonard Woolf	689	FINANCIAL SECTION:—	
		The Week in the City	702

THE NATION is edited and published at 38, Great James Street, London, W.C.1.

Chairman: J. M. KEYNES.

Editor: H. D. HENDERSON.

Telephone: Business Manager: Museum 5551.

Editorial: Museum 5552.

Telegrams: "Nationetta, Holb. London."

Annual Subscription, Thirty Shillings, including postage to any part of the world. MSS. should be addressed to the Editor, and accompanied by stamped and addressed envelope for return.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

IT is difficult to blame the Bank of England for advancing Bank rate last week, for gold was flowing out on a large scale, and, in view of the rates prevailing in the United States, the outflow seemed likely to be continuous. But the development is a disagreeable one for industry. It comes at a time when trade is the reverse of active, when unemployment stands at the formidable figure of 1,360,000, and is declining more slowly than we are accustomed to expect at this season of the year. As Mr. Keynes argues elsewhere in this journal, the direct prejudice to industry of the rise in Bank rate need not be serious, if the Bank authorities exert themselves to avert a contraction in the volume of credit. But whether they will attempt to do this is doubtful, and, in any case, the rise in the rate must mean an additional discouragement to industry at a time when industry needs every scrap of encouragement it can get. We are far, indeed, from having worked off the effects of the ill-considered return to gold of four years ago.

The rise in Bank rate should certainly dispel any faint illusion that may linger in the minds of Ministers that some sort of trade revival may still come in time to improve the political atmosphere for them at the General Election. Will they still remain incapable of grasping the political expediency as well as the economic wisdom of tackling the unemployment problem by a serious policy of capital development? Their schemes of transference, admirable as they would be as the complement of such a policy, become a

derisory futility in their present economic setting. As Mr. Kingsley Griffith well said in Monday's debate in the House of Commons:—

"Transference is only half a policy unless accompanied by schemes for creating work. It is like running excursion trains to a match which is not there."

This week the Chancellor of the Exchequer is receiving a deputation urging him to restore the penny post in this year's Budget. We are wholeheartedly with the deputation; the penny post ought undoubtedly to be restored. It is quite true that the value of money has fallen since the war, and that three-halfpence corresponds fairly enough to a pre-war penny. But that is beside the point. The Treasury at present makes a large profit out of the postal service, amply sufficient to defray the cost of reducing the rate to a penny. The extra halfpenny thus represents a tax, pure and simple; and a tax on a medium of communication is one of the worst possible taxes. Mr. Churchill should have a sufficient surplus in his forthcoming Budget for the purpose; and he could employ his surplus in no better way.

The Confederation of Employers' Organizations and the Federation of British Industries have followed the lead given them by the engineering employers and rejected the interim report of the Mond-Turner Conference. For reasons not yet published they see insuperable difficulties in the way of consultation with the Trades Union Congress through a National Industrial Council. The pill is sugared by an invitation to the General Council of the T.U.C. to meet representa-

tives of the Confederation and the Federation "in the hope that the discussions will be such as to help forward a better mutual understanding in industry generally." But the Mond-Turner Report is summarily rejected. Whether this decision is the result of the institutional jealousy of official bodies towards an influential unofficial effort, or if it represents a deep-seated dislike of the main body of employers for any plan of co-operation or consultation with their employees, may emerge later. What is already clear is that blind reaction has struck a heavy blow at a promising attempt by the more enlightened people on both sides to introduce more rational methods in industrial relations. The General Council has now to consider the invitation to confer with the two employers' organizations. They might be well advised to consult the industrialists of the Mond Conference before reaching a decision.

* * *

An important step towards the resumption of British trade with Russia was taken last week when an influential gathering of business men at the Savoy Hotel unanimously passed the following resolution:—

"This this meeting, representing various large industrial interests, is unanimously of opinion that the intimation from the Russian Government that they would welcome a delegation of British industry should command the attention of leaders of manufacturing and other interests in this country. This meeting therefore resolves to take immediate action to institute a representative delegation to proceed to Russia not later than March 8th."

The definite and practical note struck by this resolution leaves no doubt that the powerful firms represented at the meeting mean business. The Government is ostentatiously holding aloof from the movement, but more significance will be attached to Mr. Boothby's gesture towards Russia a few weeks ago, than to the implacable tone adopted by his Parliamentary chief, Mr. Churchill, on Tuesday.

* * *

The "B" registers which contain the names of new electors (and old electors who have moved) are now available in the constituencies, and are being anxiously studied by election agents and other keen politicians. The outstanding fact is that the number of new electors vastly exceeds all the estimates made by the Home Office and by the political parties. Thus at Romford, always a large division, the electorate has increased from 62,000 to 100,000; in the Epsom Division of Surrey, there are 20,000 new electors, where only 10,000 were expected; and similar increases have occurred in other constituencies. These facts have been widely discussed, but we have not seen any reference to the factor which must be mainly responsible for the disparity between the estimates and the actual figures, namely, the new thoroughness in registration. Until the last Franchise Act was passed, the registers were compiled in an extremely casual way. Householders and their wives were enfranchised automatically, but, in many constituencies, the registration of sons and daughters living at home, of lodgers, and of domestic servants, was left to their own initiative, or to that of political party agents. Consequently, the Home Secretary's wise decision to make every household send in a return of his household has resulted in the addition to the electoral roll of a large number who have been eligible before, but accidentally omitted.

* * *

The settlement of "the Roman Question" is now an accomplished fact, subject only to ratification of three instruments signed on February 11th by Signor

Mussolini on behalf of the kingdom of Italy, and by Cardinal Gaspari on behalf of the Holy See. The terms of these documents will not be published, pending ratification; but an official résumé has been issued which sets out their chief provisions. The first is a treaty by which the Italian State rescinds the Law of Guarantees of 1871, and concedes to the Holy See "full property, exclusive dominion and sovereign jurisdiction" over a small area comprising St. Peter's, the Vatican, and the Lateran with their immediate environment; assures the "Vatican City" direct connection with other States by railway, telegraphic, telephonic, wireless, and postal services; and recognizes the right of the Holy See to send its own diplomatists to foreign countries, and receive foreign diplomatists according to the general rules of international law. The Vatican asserts its desire to remain "extraneous to the temporal competitions between other States," and to Congresses called in connection therewith, and the Italian Government, in return, agrees to regard the Vatican territory as "neutral and inviolable." Finally, the Holy See declares the Roman Question irrevocably settled, and recognizes the kingdom of Italy under the House of Savoy, with Rome as its capital.

* * *

Of the other two documents, one is a Convention by which the Holy See accepts, in full satisfaction for the loss of territory in 1870, £8,152,000 in cash, and £10,869,000 in 5 per cent. bonds—this being something less than the capital value of the annuities payable under the Law of Guarantees. The other document is a Concordat regulating the position of the Roman Catholic Church in Italy. Its effect will be greatly to increase the power of the Church. The Italian State recognizes matrimony as a Sacrament, regulated by Canon Law, and all cases concerning nullity of marriage and dissolution of marriage, as distinct from separation orders, are reserved to the ecclesiastical Courts. Religious instruction becomes compulsory, in secondary as well as elementary schools, according to a programme to be agreed with the Holy See. On the other hand, Bishops, as in the recent Concordat with Poland, will be required, at their installation, to swear fealty to the Head of the State. Many points in the Concordat—enforced as they will be by the peculiar methods of Fascist administration—will obviously be extremely offensive and oppressive to Italian Liberals. We comment elsewhere on the international aspects of the settlement.

* * *

Following on the ratification of the Kellogg Pact and the passing of the Cruiser Bill, Senator Capper has introduced in the United States Senate a resolution empowering the President to declare that a breach of the Peace Pact has been committed, and to prohibit the export of arms and munitions to the offending country. Its reception has been unfavourable, and Senator Borah has declared himself as opposed to any attempt to devise methods of enforcing the Pact. On the other hand, many influential leaders of opinion outside the Senate, such as Dr. Murray Butler, see in the resolution only a logical consequence of the Pact. The main line of opposition seems to be that the resolution would bring the United States into danger of co-operation with the League of Nations. Probably its introduction is premature. Now that the Pact is ratified, its logical consequences will inevitably come up for discussion, and in any negotiations on "freedom of the seas," such as are contemplated in the Borah-Reed amendment to the Cruiser Bill, the effect of the Pact on neutral rights and obligations will unquestionably be raised. For the moment, however, American opinion

is satisfied with ratification of the Pact, and requires further time to digest its implications, before committing itself to a definite line of action in hypothetical contingencies.

* * *

A Bill for ratification of the Kellogg Pact has now been passed by the German Reichstag, against the votes of the Nationalists, Fascists, and Communists. The Pact has also been ratified by the Polish Diet, and the representatives of Soviet Russia, Poland, Roumania, Estonia, and Latvia (but not Finland) have signed a Protocol bringing the provisions of the Pact into immediate operation as between themselves, without awaiting ratification by the original signatories. This Protocol may be no more than a gesture; but it does appear to indicate a new sense of solidarity among the Baltic States, and a new turn in the relations between Soviet Russia and her immediate neighbours. From this point of view the adhesion of Roumania is especially noteworthy.

* * *

There is not much to be gathered from Mr. Bridgeman's brief reference to the Admiralty's building programme. It appears that the Government have decided to quicken up the building of the 10,000-ton cruisers, which was temporarily slowed down last year. By the original programme, one 10,000-ton cruiser and two 8,000-ton cruisers were to be laid down in the year 1928-29, and the same rate was to be maintained in the year 1929-30. The larger cruiser was removed from last year's programme in order to remind the United States that the Admiralty were still open to an offer; this postponed building has been added to the current year's programme. The total number of cruisers to be built under the 1925 five years' programme seems, however, to have been reduced by three 8,000-ton ships. The point of real importance is that, as the programme adopted in 1925 will be completed this year, the Government will have to decide on a programme for the future, and the character and scope of the new programme will certainly be very closely examined in the United States.

* * *

Meanwhile, the German designers have succeeded in producing a type which has created something of a sensation in naval circles. By the Treaty of Versailles, Germany is allowed to build six 10,000-ton ships, and as Germany is not a signatory to the Washington Treaty, the guns are not restricted to 8-in. calibre. The new German warship is by far the most powerful 10,000-ton ship afloat—a ship, indeed, which no 10,000-ton cruiser restricted to 8-in. guns could possibly engage. The restriction on the numbers of the German fleet makes this addition to its strength comparatively innocuous; but it is none the less a reminder that the balance created by any regional agreement on naval armaments may be completely upset by developments in the fleet of a non-signatory Power, and nothing but a general agreement for naval limitation can give real security against a renewed outbreak of competitive building.

* * *

The debate in the French Chamber on Alsace-Lorraine at last ended on Friday of last week with a vote of confidence, not in the Government or its policy, but in "the patriotic attachment of the populations of Alsace and Lorraine to the Republic, to France one and indivisible," carried by 461 votes to 17, the minority consisting of Communists and Alsatian Home Rulers. The Radicals voted solidly for the motion with the whole of the Centre and the Right; the Socialists abstained on the ground that, although the motion

declared France to be "indivisible," she was, in fact, divided by M. Poincaré's concessions to Alsatian particularism. Of the twenty-four deputies for Alsace-Lorraine, eleven appear to have voted for the motion, six against, and seven abstained. Before the division M. Francois-Albert declared, on behalf of the Radicals, that they took the motion to mean that French law would ultimately be "integrally applied" in Alsace-Lorraine, and M. Paul Reynaud, on behalf of the Right, gave it an exactly opposite interpretation. After a debate lasting more than a fortnight this is a poor result. The problem of Alsace-Lorraine will not be solved by the adoption of a sort of profession of faith, which, like most creeds, is variously interpreted by the faithful who give it their formal adherence. It is an evasion of the problem, not a solution.

* * *

In spite of his assurances that he was keeping his head, the Marquis de Estella has persuaded the King of Spain to sign a proclamation of the most repressive character. The police are to arrest anybody "who shall foretell misfortune for the country, or slander the Ministers of the Crown." Registers are to be kept in all Government Departments with notes on (*inter alia*) the "political discretion" of each employee. The boards of all corporations and associations may be dismissed if they show themselves hostile to the Government. Finally, the Civic Guard and members of the Patriotic Union are to keep records of all persons who slander the Government or demoralize the public. The fine of 2,000 pesetas to be imposed on lugubrious persons is not likely to make them more cheerful; but the worst feature of the order is the clause giving the Patriotic Union, a body of the Marquis de Estella's own creation, inquisitorial powers over the rest of the nation. The whole order shows little sign of his vaunted "serenity."

* * *

The riots at Colombo have quieted down. It is admitted that Mr. Gunesinha, President of the Labour Union, exerted himself to the utmost to restore order; but he can hardly evade responsibility for the effects, on an excitable mob, of his violent attacks on the police. None the less, the substantial charges he has brought against the police will require strict and impartial investigation. At Bombay the riots assumed a still more serious form subsequent to the writing of the note in our last week's issue. Originating in a strike of Hindu workers and the alleged employment of Pathans as strike-breakers, they developed into a series of conflicts between Hindus and Mahomedans, in which well over a hundred people were killed and over seven hundred injured.

* * *

The Liberal Campaign Department is, we think, to be congratulated upon its "Liberal Election Ideas Competition." Substantial prizes, amounting to £1,000 in all, are to be given for the best poster designs exemplifying some aspect of Liberal policy, the best pictorial posters, lay-outs for Press advertisements, and slogans. This is probably a new development in electioneering methods, and we hope it will result in the discovery of fresh talent. It will be particularly interesting to see the winning slogan, and to note whether it really catches on. Successful slogans are apt to be either foolish or mendacious: "Not a minute on the day, not a penny off the pay"; "A vote given for a Liberal is a vote sold to the Boers." It will be a great achievement if some Liberal competitor can produce a wise and truthful slogan which will catch the popular fancy.

MR. CHURCHILL'S FLESH CREEPS

BY-ELECTIONS are notoriously deceptive as guides to the probable results of a General Election, and they are more than ever untrustworthy at the present time, when they are being fought on a Register which excludes the millions of new electors who will have votes to cast in May. But, as indicating the movement of opinion, the elections which have recently taken place are undoubtedly remarkable. The Labour candidates have been successful in every case. They have held Bishop Auckland by a largely increased majority, and they have won North Midlothian and South Battersea from the Conservatives. South Battersea, moreover, is a constituency which Viscount Curzon has held safely for the Conservatives ever since the war, his majority at the last election being over 5,000.

On the face of them, these results would appear to indicate that the Labour Party is making phenomenal progress. A closer inspection suggests that their true moral is not so much the popularity of Labour as the extreme unpopularity of the present Government. In none of the constituencies we have mentioned, not even in South Battersea, did the Labour Party increase its poll. What happened at South Battersea was that the Conservative poll fell by over 8,000, while the Labour poll fell by only 2,600 (the Liberals, who did not contest the seat in 1924, securing some 2,800 votes). And the other recent elections show the same broad results. None of them has been in a constituency where the Liberal candidate had even a sporting chance. They supply no real test, therefore, of the headway that Liberalism is making. But they show that the tide is running strongly against the Government, and that large numbers of voters who at the last election voted Tory are, at the moment, not in a mood to vote at all.

These by-election results have created consternation in the Tory camp. In the most sober Conservative journals a note of genuine alarm can be detected, and it takes the form of ostentatious panic in the utterances of Mr. Winston Churchill. Hitherto, Conservatives have felt convinced that, whatever may be the results of the next election, an independent majority for the Labour Party is at all events not a serious possibility. Now they are suddenly stricken with a horrible doubt. If the General Election should go like these recent by-elections, how many seats might Labour win? They plunge into agitated and unhappy calculations. Is it possible, after all, that the hideous spectre of a Labour Parliament may assume awful actuality, not in the remote future, but in this very year, positively before the summer holidays? Can such things really happen in this peaceful, pleasant land?

This psychological situation is exactly suited to Mr. Churchill, and in his speech on Tuesday to the Anti-Socialist and Anti-Communist Union he was in his most lurid vein:—

"On some summer night we should go to bed a strong, tranquil nation, recovering slowly but surely our

prosperity after the Great War. The next morning we might wake up and find that the control of Great Britain and the conduct of its world-wide affairs had been handed over for four or five years to the men who only two years ago were managing the general strike and trying to shatter by a single dastardly blow the economic life of the whole island and its ancient Parliamentary constitution."

Yet, in face of this fearful possibility, people are indifferent and apathetic, nursing petty grievances against the Government, complaining of the Betting Tax or the licensing laws, and failing to vote for Conservative candidates at by-elections. Some people even go so far as to ask, "What harm did the Socialists do when they were in office four years ago?" Mr. Churchill has no patience with such "unthinking people." Do they not see that on the last occasion the Labour Government was in office, but not in power? If Labour were to secure power as well, why, almost anything might happen.

"They might easily have a gigantic social and economic breakdown, in which Parliamentary institutions would be overturned, or brushed on one side, and out of which a non-Parliamentary and unconstitutional Socialist regime would come into being as the only force capable of restoring peace and supplying food. Compared with issues like these, surely grievances about the Betting Tax or the hours of closing public-houses, and the ordinary complaints about the day-to-day routine of government seemed rather petty. He thought men and women would feel very much ashamed of themselves if they had let these grave dangers and evils loose upon the country by voting against the Government or simply by sitting at home in unworthy apathy."

But the "cursed apathy" of disgruntled Conservatives is not the only source of danger. There is also the reprehensible conduct of the Liberal Party. The Liberals have a grievance. Mr. Churchill admits it generously. They cannot obtain a representation in Parliament which has any relation to their voting strength. So, out of pure spite, as Mr. Churchill sees it,

"they were taking their revenge on society. They were pursuing the most wanton and reckless of all policies. They were mad-dogging all the constituencies. They were trying their utmost to split the anti-Socialist vote in hundreds of constituencies, so as to secure the return of Socialist candidates. They had no chance whatever of returning their own candidates, but their tactics were to try in every case to put in a Socialist candidate. They hoped by this means to bring the Socialist and Conservative Parties to something like an equipoise, and then they hoped to sit on the balance and make the best bargain for themselves."

The levity of this conduct shocks Mr. Churchill deeply:—

"How could they tell that these tactics would not overshoot themselves, and that they would not wake up on the morrow of the polls and find that it did not rest with them whether the Socialists were in power or not? They were certainly gambling in a terrible manner with the vital interests of the State."

This complaint that the Liberals are wantonly splitting the "anti-Socialist vote" has been much to the fore lately in the Conservative Press. It is a curious complaint. In the first place, it takes for granted that the majority of those who vote Liberal

would, in the absence of a Liberal candidate, vote Conservative rather than Labour. This is, to say the least, a highly disputable assumption. It is almost certainly untrue of the aggregate Liberal vote throughout the country as a whole. But it may possibly represent the preponderating truth in those constituencies which are really relevant to the complaint—namely, those where the Liberal vote has been reduced to such small dimensions that the Liberal candidate is in danger of forfeiting his deposit. Let us assume, at all events, that to this extent the complaint is well-founded. Are the Conservatives entitled to complain? They have had it in their power throughout the last four years to provide against this danger. By introducing the Alternative Vote they could have ensured that Liberal candidatures would not have the effect of returning Socialists. It would still be possible for them, if they were so minded, to carry the Alternative Vote through the present Parliament. So far, however, the Conservatives have deliberately refrained from this or any other measure of electoral reform. Mr. Churchill ought, in fairness, to include himself and his colleagues in his category of gamblers with the vital interests of the State.

But the real reply to the complaint is of a different character. It is, we fear, one of those replies which are worse than the original offence. Liberals cannot see the situation through Mr. Churchill's spectacles, or even through the less distorting lenses of the ordinary good Conservative. They do not desire to see a Labour Government in power, but neither are they enamoured of the way in which we have been governed during the last four years; and different Liberals entertain different opinions as to whether a Labour majority or a Conservative majority would be, upon the whole, the more disagreeable alternative. Difficult as Mr. Churchill may find it to comprehend such an attitude, large numbers of Liberals whose opinions are far from being of a Radical complexion are inclined to think that the continued conduct of our foreign affairs in the spirit responsible for the Anglo-French Pact and the naval conference fiasco would be a more serious menace to our national welfare than any domestic blunders which a Labour Government would be likely to commit.

For our part, we are far from regarding the political outlook optimistically. It is true that the situation is dangerous, but the real danger is of a totally different kind from that envisaged by Mr. Churchill. The danger is not that of a Labour majority; on that point the agitated Conservatives may reassure themselves; such a possibility is not really on the cards. The danger is that the desire which we believe now animates a large majority of the British people for the replacement of the mean-spirited Gradgrindian economic policy of recent years by a policy of enterprise which will make a resolute onslaught on unemployment its first preoccupation, may be denied satisfaction in the next Parliament, by the confusion of party alignment, the jealousies of faction, and the incompatibilities of individuals.

THE BANK RATE FIVE-AND-A-HALF PER CENT.

By J. M. KEYNES.

AFTER remaining at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the best part of two years, the Bank rate has been raised to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—the highest figure since 1921. There is nothing in business and financial conditions at home to justify this step; it is wholly consequent on the rates which, for its own domestic reasons, the Federal Reserve Board is maintaining in the United States. Nevertheless, it is useless to blame the Bank of England for being dragged at the heels of America. Indeed the Bank has done very well—considering the rates in Berlin and New York—to maintain its rate at the lower figure for so many months. For I cannot agree with those critics who seem to suppose that, having returned to the Gold Standard, we can, all the same, behave as though we had not. The present episode is one of the inevitable by-products of the policy we have deliberately chosen.

Presumably the Governor of the Bank of England, who was recently in New York, has satisfied himself that there is no chance of the American rates coming down in the near future. In this case an upward movement in our Bank rate was probably inevitable. It is true that this can do no good to the prospects of British employment and may do serious harm. But there are two considerations of a more cheerful kind which we need to emphasize. In the first place the necessity to raise our Bank rate is not to be interpreted as a sign of real weakness. In the second place, it need not react disastrously on the industrial situation at home, *if the attendant measures taken by the Bank of England are of the right kind.*

So far from London having shown signs of weakness, I think that any candid critic must reckon it a sign of considerable underlying financial strength, that it should have been possible for the London Money Market to last out so long with its rates so much below those of New York. Unquestionably this continuing disparity of rates must have attracted foreign short-term borrowing to the London Market on a substantial scale, partly by the withdrawal of foreign funds previously deposited here, partly by remittances of British funds to New York to take advantage of the high rates obtaining there, and most of all by the increased volume of bills, arising out of international trade, accepted and discounted in London. It is probable that we could not have supported this drain until now, if it had not been for a surprising number of financial windfalls which have come our way, out of the bounty of Wall Street, in recent months. The sale at prodigious prices by British investors to American optimists of such things as Columbia Graphophone shares, Ford of England, General Electrics, Mond Nickel, South American telephone properties, and many others may easily have brought in upwards of £50,000,000 within quite a brief period. This will have been partly offset by British investments in the United States and by an undue complaisance towards excessive Australian loans, and the like, in the shape of new overseas issues in London. But I should surmise that a fair proportion of our windfalls has been absorbed in meeting the drain from the international short-loan market under the pressure of dear money in New York and Berlin. This means that—looking a little further ahead—we have materially strengthened our real position and have liquidated a part of London's previous indebtedness. When American rates come down again and the pressure of Reparation remittances once more turns the tide against Berlin—both of which events are fairly probable before the end of the year—we can expect to get our gold back again.

If only we knew our *net* position in the international short-loan market, I believe we should find that it is better today, even after allowing for our loss of gold, than it was six months ago. Doubtless we still owe far too much to the Bank of France—but that is another story.

The main question, however, is how best to mitigate the blow to the industrial prospects at home. I have very strong convictions on this point, for which I beg most earnestly the attention of our financial authorities. There are—broadly speaking—three sets of circumstances in which it is necessary to raise Bank rate. First, to check a tendency to excessive expansion and speculation at home, in which case it is of the essence of the proceeding to curtail the volume of credit as well as to raise its price. Secondly, to bring interest rates at home into line with the real rate of interest on investment prevailing in the world at large, in which case the chief thing is to weaken the bond and investment market and to make short-money rates as effective as possible in this direction. Thirdly, to stop a drain on our short-loan position, and hence on our gold-reserves, due to a temporary technical position abroad. The first set of circumstances does not exist to-day—far from it. Nor does the second in my judgment—our trouble in this field is due to the supply of new investments at home being inadequate to permit a right distribution of our current savings between home and foreign loans, having regard to our available balance of trade. Unquestionably it is the third which characterizes the present position.

Now the international short-loan market is exceedingly sensitive to the *rate of interest*. Business, on the other hand, is far more sensitive to the *quantity* of credit than it is to a moderate change in its price. If the same or a greater quantity of credit than before is made available to business, the evils ensuing on its costing 1 per cent. more may not be very great; whereas the results of a curtailment in the volume of credit would be disastrous. The problem before the Bank of England is, therefore, to make the higher rate effective in the short-loan market without curtailing the volume of credit. In the long run this might prove impracticable. But for a few months I believe that it is perfectly feasible by agreement between the Bank of England, the Big Five, and the Money Market. If the rates charged by the Banks for loans and particularly for loans to the call market and for bills are maintained at the higher level by agreement, then the existing volume of credit can be safely maintained and even augmented. If some existing borrowers are deterred by the higher rates, their place can be taken by new borrowers who were left unsatisfied before or by the banks facilitating the issue of long-period bonds to finance capital improvements at home. If this can be managed, the volume of employment need not suffer—and might even improve. If not, unemployment will increase as surely as night follows day.

Therefore our programme should have three heads. To keep the higher rate effective in the short-loan market by agreement. To increase the basis of credit by the Bank of England purchasing securities—at least until it is proved to be impossible to combine this with keeping the higher rate effective. To press on with capital developments at home.

On the other hand, to allow unemployment to spread would be, at this juncture, a rather dangerous thing.

So far as concerns our relations with the American Federal Reserve Board, one hopes that the Governor of the Bank of England has come to an understanding on the following points. Since we are assisting the aims of the Federal Reserve Board in raising our rate, they must not raise theirs still further; for if they do, we shall be no further forward. Secondly, they must take all the steps in

their power, other than a higher rate, to remedy what they deem objectionable in the present technical position in New York, and—if they are not successful within another six months—abandon what may be a misguided attempt. For it is scarcely playing the Gold-Standard game for the Federal Reserve authorities to use their preponderant position to jeopardize the trading prosperity of the whole world in pursuit of a local objective which many well-instructed Americans believe to lie at the extreme edge of, and possibly outside, their proper sphere of action.

THE TEMPORAL POWER

THE agreement which the Italian Government has just concluded with the Vatican is of interest from many points of view. An integral part of the transaction is a Concordat which greatly strengthens the position of the Roman Church in Italy. Distrusting that Church profoundly, regarding it, indeed, as potentially the most dangerous reactionary force in the modern world, we naturally regret any development which increases its influence in any country over anything; and we regret especially an increase in its control over education, such as appears to be a prominent feature of the new Concordat. That, however, is the domestic affair of Italy. The question which chiefly concerns the world as a whole is that of the possible international repercussions of the restoration of the temporal power.

Prior to the year 1870, when the last remnant of the Papal States was annexed to the kingdom of Italy, the Pope was not only the spiritual head of the Roman Catholic Church, but the temporal sovereign of a European State. A large part of his dominions had already been incorporated in the kingdom of Italy; but this did not legally affect the position of the Papacy as an international person. In 1870 the Pope's territorial jurisdiction was completely extinguished, and the majority of jurists are agreed that, from that date, the Papacy ceased to be a "person" in international law. It is true that the Italian Law of Guarantees declared the person of the Pope himself to be sacred and inviolable; provided for his enjoying all the honours of sovereignty; and conferred immunities on envoys accredited to the Holy See. The fact remains that the Apostolic Palaces became the property of the Italian State, and the honours and privileges reserved to the Pope were conferred upon him by virtue of an Italian Statute, and not by virtue of international law. No Pope has ever acknowledged the legality of the annexation, nor touched a penny of the annuity provided by the Italian Budget; but the change took place without any protest from the Catholic Powers.

Despite this loss of territorial sovereignty, the Pope's position as a Pontiff, exercising spiritual jurisdiction over millions of Roman Catholics all over the world, rendered it convenient, and sometimes almost essential for the Governments of States with a large Roman Catholic population to have formal relations with the Holy See. The Vatican continued to exercise the right of diplomatic representation in foreign countries; many States, Protestant and Orthodox, as well as Catholic, maintained agents at the Papal Court. Several States, with large numbers of Roman Catholic subjects, found it convenient to arrange "Concordats" regulating matters of ecclesiastical discipline within their territories. These Concordats differed from treaties in two points: they were not concerned with the relations between two States, but with the internal affairs of a single State; and they were not concluded between sovereign States, on a footing of equality, but between the

Government of a sovereign State and a spiritual authority having no temporal jurisdiction. They appear to have no binding effect in international law.

If the present treaty is ratified, the Vatican will again become a sovereign Power, exercising temporal jurisdiction, although within a microscopic territory. Only a brief and rather vague outline of the treaty has yet been published; but the new Papal State will presumably have power to levy taxes; to strike coinage; to make and enforce domestic legislation. The Papal nuncios will again become the representatives of a sovereign State.

The few acres over which the Pope will exercise secular dominion are a very different matter from the Papal States as they existed prior to 1860; but even then, the Papacy possessed no military force worth taking seriously, and the Pope, as head of a secular State, was not much respected. It was, indeed, the fashion of those days to regard the temporal power of the Vatican as the last survival of those petty Italian sovereignties which disappeared during the Napoleonic convulsions. The Pope's real influence rested on his ecclesiastical position, and was strengthened rather than weakened by the loss of his territorial dominions. The claim to restoration of the temporal power has all along been based on the argument that the Pope should be free from all physical compulsion in the exercise of his ecclesiastical authority, and that this freedom could only be conferred by sovereign possession of a definite territory. From this point of view the exact size of that territory does not seem to be an important matter.

The real point is that the Papacy, however small its territory, becomes once more an international person, capable of entering into international treaties or conventions as a European State. That important issues are wrapped up with this change of status may be seen by putting a single question. Can the Papacy now claim admission to membership of the League of Nations?

Hitherto the right of the Papacy to membership of the League, or representation at international conferences, such as those which followed the conclusion of the Great War, has been denied on the ground that the Papacy was not a sovereign State. That objection will no longer be tenable; though membership of the League might still be denied on the ground that the Pope is incapable of contributing to the enforcement of sanctions under the Covenant; for the Council is hardly likely to invoke the employment of his spiritual weapons of excommunication and interdict against a recalcitrant Power.

The pacific desires of the Papacy are not in doubt. But its admission to the League would have unfortunate, and perhaps very mischievous, consequences. The anomalies of the Pope's position would prepare the ground for controversy. His representative would speak with the influence derived not from his temporal sovereignty over a tiny area in Central Rome, but from his spiritual sovereignty over the millions of human beings comprised within the Roman Catholic Church. The papal nuncio at Geneva would have the right of demanding that matters affecting the welfare of the Church be discussed and examined. To take a concrete case. The Mexican law for disestablishing the Church was undoubtedly harsh. In the existing circumstances the Pope could only protest through his nuncio. But if another South American State were to pillage the Church by legislative process, after the Pope had been admitted to the League, he would presumably have the right of raising the question on behalf of the clergy and the religious communities he represents. Even though no action were taken, this right of making the Church's affairs an international concern could hardly fail to excite fierce controversy. Yet the right would be there,

and it might almost be said that the Pope would fail in his duty if he did not exercise it.

Fortunately, this question seems unlikely to arise. According to the published summary of the treaty, the Vatican declares that it wishes to remain "outside the temporal rivalries between other States, and outside the international congresses convened for this purpose, unless the parties in conflict appeal unanimously to its mission of peace." This means, presumably, that it has no intention of courting a rebuff by applying for admission to the League.

In these circumstances the interest, to non-Catholics, of the restoration of temporal power, seems, for the time being at least, to be mainly academic. It may be doubted how far either the Papacy or the Fascist Government will gain in moral authority by the arrangement. But it is hardly fair to blame the Pope for accepting what he has always claimed as a right, from the first Italian Government willing to grant it. So long as the Papacy refrains from interference in international politics, the restoration of temporal power over a few streets and buildings in Rome is not a matter of importance, and the Powers may be content to acquiesce in the Italian guarantee of the Vatican territory as "neutral and inviolable."

Should the Vatican be tempted, as a consequence of its new relations with the Quirinal, to use its moral authority over the consciences of Catholics throughout the world, in support of Italian policy, then, indeed, a new and serious situation would arise. There seems, however, no fair reason for assuming in advance that the Pope will so far abuse the advantages of his new position, and it would be a mistake to accept, without further proof, either the suspicions of the French Press or the transports of some Fascist journals.

LIFE AND POLITICS

THE latest by-elections—I am writing before the Wansbeck result—were chiefly interesting as showing a continued decline in the Government's popularity. The Conservatives fully expected to hold South Battersea. There is something comic in their explanation that they failed to do so owing to an irruption into the constituency of a horde of wild bookmakers, furious over the betting tax. What has become of the ancient alliance of the Turf and the Tories? Like other sentimental alliances this one flourished so long as one of the parties to it was not asked to pay anything. It is certainly in its way a portent when bookmakers are found stirring up opposition to a King-and-Country Administration in the taverns of a poor quarter of London. It is also a repulsive feature of present-day electioneering, and I hope Mr. Churchill will not be intimidated into granting concessions to the betting fraternity. I do not think that it is safe to generalize on the evidence of these elections, except to say that one is more than ever inclined to share the common belief that no Government seat with a majority of less than five thousand is likely to be safe at the General Election. There was a falling-off in the Labour poll; at Bishop Auckland a quite notable increase in the Liberal poll. The proportion of voters who thought it worth while to record their votes was extremely small; a sign perhaps of the languid interest in party politics generally, which seems to become more marked as the franchise is extended. The danger in politics is not excited mass action, but sheer indifference.

One is becoming rather tired of the parrot-like iteration on Conservative and Labour platforms, of the state-

ment that the Liberal Party does not count. It has become common form; like prefacing a speech with "Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen." These speakers hope by mere repetition to impress the popular consciousness with the truth of what they say—it is a kind of magic incantation. If Liberalism has ceased to count, is it not curious that it is precisely the position and prospects of the Liberals that form the staple of political discussion? Wherever people gather to talk politics this is the absorbing topic. If Liberals no longer count, why do the journalists fill daily columns with needless debates about the non-existent? For example, I have just read the effusion of a well-known Conservative publicist designed to prove that the Liberal Party is essentially capitalist, and ought therefore to make an electoral pact with the Conservatives with the object of keeping the Socialist out. "The majority of Liberals must in the nature of things prefer a Conservative to a Labour Government." This is simply not true. If that were indeed the truth, there are many thousands of Liberals, the salt of the party, who would at once lose all interest in it. It is, I know, doctrine that is heard from people who call themselves Liberals, such as the correspondent of the *Times* the other day, who asks Liberals to vote Liberal or Tory according as the Liberal or the Tory candidate has the best chance of "beating the Socialist." The best Liberals, I am sure, regard this as detestable doctrine, which, if it is followed extensively, must make a mockery of the claims of Liberals to lead social progress.

It is, of course, inconceivable that any Government should even admit that they have made a mistake. Governments, like Popes, maintain a professional infallibility, which is accepted by party followers as the sign of perfection, and by outsiders regarded as a superstition. In the matter of the rupture of trade relations with Russia the members of Mr. Baldwin's Cabinet would doubtless, in strict seclusion, now admit that a blunder was committed. British business has had every reason to rue the day when Sir William Joynton-Hicks was allowed to raid Arcos and send the Russians packing. The shock of disillusion has been communicated to the mind of the Tory politician from the pocket, where he is as sensitive as the rest of us. It is perfectly well known that Mr. Churchill, who has the sleep-dispelling job of keeping the nation's pockets well filled, is anxious that the blunder should be repaired. The Government is prevented by the tyranny of consistency from repairing it, but it is certain that they regard with sympathy the spontaneous movement of leading industrialists to send a trade mission to Russia. It is common ground that the senseless pugnacity of "Jix" has lost us business which we can ill afford to lose. The breach with Russia was cheered as melodrama on the unreal stage of party politics; on the East Coast of Scotland, fine sentiments issued in sordid fact. Fishermen could no longer sell their herrings. It is good news that a sensible effort is to be made to disentangle trade from politics in the Russian market. The business men will, one hopes, come back from Russia furnished with a case for removing obstacles to business such as even this Government cannot ignore.

In places where Liberals discuss the universe there is singularly little disposition shown to express opinions about the Pope's treaty with Mussolini. Probably the authors of this famous pact are as doubtful as are outsiders about its effects in the future. It is only in France, apparently, that a strong line is being taken in criticism, and opinion there seems to be suspicious, even hostile, for the French in their simple nationalist way consider that what is good for Italy

cannot be good for France. Still, even an English Protestant must have a "reaction" to this great event, and my own instinctive feeling about it is roughly as follows. Obviously it is a resounding success for Mussolini and a notable strengthening of the position of Fascism. As such, all Liberals must feel uneasy about it, and fear that it involves the still deeper submergence of Italian Liberalism. An alliance between Fascism and the Papacy is easy to understand, for both are authoritarian, anti-Liberal institutions, and clearly the Vatican has received as part of its share of the bargain extended power to enforce its brand of religion on the Italian people. In short, it is fairly certain that the arrangement tends against liberty, political and religious. An outsider may be allowed to add that one would have thought that temporal sovereignty was worth less to the Pope than the mysterious prestige, the sentimental appeal, of remaining "the Prisoner of the Vatican."

As a writer Mr. Churchill is conspicuous for his success in applying the technique of the platform to literature. He is essentially and always the rhetorician. Look at the first instalment of his book on the post-war period, as it appears in the *Times*. The thought is absolutely commonplace, but what pomp of phraseology, what a passion for the vaguely immense! As you read you see him on the platform and hear the ponderous periods rolling from his lips. A superb journalist, it is true, but a journalist of old-fashioned magniloquence. His pace is slow, and he needs plenty of room to bring off his effects. "Through all its five acts the drama has run its course; the light of history is switched off, the world stage dims, the actors shrivel, the chorus sinks. The war of the giants has ended; the quarrels of the pygmies have begun." That is an orator's peroration, and a very good one; an effort in the fine old tradition of Burke and Bright. We go to Mr. Churchill's histories not for fresh facts and illuminations, but to find our common knowledge put with a superior splendour of phrase, even a touch of disguising poetry. In this first chapter Mr. Churchill relates that when the Armistice came his own mood was divided between anxiety for the future and the desire to help the fallen foe. He suggested to the Prime Minister that we should at once "rush a dozen great ships crammed with provisions into Hamburg." Time and time again Mr. Churchill has shown his capacity for unexpected flights of magnanimity. He is as various as Alcibiades, but he is never small. Would that his advice had been followed, and that it had been possible for the nation to make this noble gesture of compassion!

I suppose I am as fond of Dickens, this side idolatry, as anyone, but I confess the denominational worship on formal occasions is often disturbing. I always want to brawl in church. On the evening of Dickens's birthday I put on the earphones to hear the after-dinner eulogy of the Lord Chief Justice. The function of after-dinner oratory is that of a liqueur, to make one feel pleasantly warm inside. It deals with the more comfortable aspects of truth. I found the Lord Chief Justice on Dickens quite soothingly sentimental, and my attention slipped until I was roused by a reference to Bagehot's Essay, followed by this: "It is pleasant to think that, if their [Bagehot's, Hutton's, and G. H. Lewes's] words are sometimes read to-day it is because Dickens is the subject of some of them." That night I listened no more. It was such a novel idea to me that Bagehot is only read now because of the "envy, jealousy, and uncharitableness" of his essay on Dickens that I took down "Literary Studies" from the shelf and re-read the essay. It was written in 1858 at the height of Dickens's pro-

digious popularity, but before he had become an Institution. The essay is simply first-rate. It is severe, far more severe than is fashionable now, but I know of nothing better in all the critical literature on Dickens for precise definition of his special faculty and his special weaknesses. As we are not discussing a case that has come before the Lord Chief Justice's Court, I feel safe in questioning the fairness of this judicial utterance.

It seems a pity the ex-Kaiser did not pursue his rumoured intention of suing in the English Courts for the suppression of Sir Frederick Ponsonby's edition of his mother's letters. It seems he would have been within his legal rights in so doing. If he had come over to plead in person he would have had a great reception, for it is the ancient and amiable custom of our people to make pets of their enemies once their claws are cut. Instead, the ex-Kaiser has chosen to write a preface for the German edition, which the *EVENING STANDARD* has had the enterprise to publish. This effusion will, I think, do Wilhelm's reputation no harm. It is sentimental in the extreme, but magnanimous. He nobly resists the temptation to abuse his mother. He thinks she became a little unbalanced by her misfortunes, when she allowed herself to describe her son in terms less flattering than he feels he deserved. But what is more astonishing than this effort is the facsimile that is printed of the Kaiser's quotation from a most unlikely source—the late C. E. Montague. My opinion of the ex-Kaiser goes up considerably on finding that he reads Montague, even if only to select in self-justification the blameless sentiment "All the circumstantial evidence on the earth seems to get mobilized now and again to down an innocent man."

This week I attended a lecture by the learned curator of the London Museum. It was about the beginnings of London, and it was rather a shock to Cockney pride of ancestry—I am not referring to myself—to learn that compared with Colchester or St. Albans, for instance, London is comparatively a mushroom growth—a Roman mushroom to be precise. London, it seems probable, was the creation of the first London Bridge, which the Romans must have built, though there is, I believe, no evidence for it. The British traders and hunters ignored that site of unfriendly marsh and impenetrable wood and settled higher up the river, about the first practicable ford.

KAPPA.

THE LESSON

(AFTER KINGSLEY—AND SOUTH BATTERSEA)

THERE, little Jix, don't cry—
They have captured the seat, I know;
It does seem sad that the faith some had
Is a thing of the Long Ago.
A child's illusions must soon pass by—
There, little Jix, don't cry.

There, little Jix, don't cry—
It was Samuel's fault, I know;
But the simple ways of Zinovieff days
Are things of the Long Ago.
You'll understand if you'll only try—
There, little Jix, don't cry.

There, little Jix, don't cry—
You are losing your job, I know;
And your night club raids and your escapades
Will be things of the Long Ago.
But the thirst for office will soon pass by—
There, little Jix, don't cry.

H. P.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"GOD OR MAMMON IN EAST AFRICA"

SIR,—The Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies in Eastern and Central Africa lays down certain principles which I believe to be essential to the welfare and progress of East Africa. To some of these you refer in your article under the above heading in your issue of February 2nd. I intend to lend any support that I can to the principles contained in the Report. It is my hope that discussion and reflection may bring public opinion in Kenya to see that these principles, so far from being inimical to the real and permanent interests of the white settlers, are necessary to establish those interests on a secure and enduring basis.

But while I believe certain things to be right, and, if they are right, to be the only sure foundation for the prosperity of East Africa, I should greatly hesitate to identify any human judgment on a problem so difficult as that of East Africa, or any system of government—even that of West Africa—conducted by fallible human beings with the mind and will of God. I should be equally loth to subscribe to the opinion that the rule of Mammon prevails in Kenya to a greater extent than in other parts of the world. The settlers in Kenya, like people elsewhere, but not, so far as my knowledge goes, more than people elsewhere, are concerned to safeguard their own interests. But, as in other parts of the Empire, there is found among them a public spirit and an intelligent and responsible opinion, and it is to this spirit and opinion that any policy which is to meet with real success must make its appeal. The world is not so made that nothing but light is to be found in West Africa while in East Africa there is unrelieved gloom, nor that truth, wisdom, and virtue are the monopoly of public opinion in England while these qualities are entirely absent in East Africa. I believe it to be of the highest importance that public opinion in Great Britain and East Africa should be helped to understand the far-reaching issues for the British Empire as a whole and for human welfare in East Africa which have been raised afresh by the Report, and my reason for writing to you is that these extreme simplifications of the problem do not seem to me to help in the endeavour to find a just and right solution.—Yours, &c.,

J. H. OLDHAM.

Edinburgh House,
2, Eaton Gate, London, S.W.1.
February 6th, 1929.

THE EAST AFRICAN REPORT

SIR,—The national importance of the issues at stake must be my excuse for burdening you with yet another letter upon the East African Report.

I read with some uneasiness your review of this Report until I reached the last paragraph—if only this warning had been in the first paragraph!

The initial danger which some of us see lies in the fact that during the "interregnum" legislative power on the Kenya Council will pass to the settlers. The argument is that a two-fold check is to be established—but what is that check?—(a) the veto of the High Commissioner and (b) the nominated membership to protect native interests.

We are too familiar with these checks and long experience has shown that they are but tissue-paper safeguards. I cannot recall a single instance in modern Colonial history where the Secretary of State has stood out against legislation passed by a local Legislative Council.

It is clear that a grave issue is coming to the forefront of British politics, namely, the civic status of British subjects. The East African Report is really a clarion call to British public opinion to recognize this fact. But unless *Liberal* views in the largest sense prevail, nothing can save the Empire from ultimate disruption.

I submit the following for earnest consideration:—

- (1) That the "Broad Stone" of Empire is a common civic status regardless of race, creed or colour.
- (2) Any "civilization test" imposed must be of a common standard for all races in any given Colony.

- (3) When the defined "civilization test" has been set up, carrying with it the franchise, the vote under that franchise must be one of equal value for all British races.

The East African Report seems to argue for this three-fold policy, but appears to hesitate to recommend it for complete and early adoption.—Yours, &c.,

JOHN H. HARRIS.

Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.1.

February 4th, 1929.

"WOMEN AND THE HOSPITALS"

SIR,—May I make some comments on Miss Vera Brittain's very able article upon "Women and the Hospitals" in your issue of February 2nd?

The University Committee obviously had to deal with facts as they are, not as they would wish them to be. The Constitution, both present and to come, of the University gives it very little control over the schools. Miss Brittain is incorrect in saying that "withdrawing recognition from a school makes it impossible for the students to prepare for any of the University's degrees." The impossibility is restricted to Internal degrees only; schools refused recognition as Internal schools would find no difficulty at all in submitting students for External degrees which have the same validity as Internal degrees. The withdrawal of the Treasury grants may, under the new Constitution, become a means of pressure, but it must be remembered that the ultimate source of the grants is the Treasury, which would probably have something to say in the question, and might not view with favour the application of such pressure.

Miss Brittain misses the real outstanding difficulty, which is purely economic, namely, the actual loss of income resulting from the defection of the men experienced by men's schools which have admitted women. It was to avoid this economic difficulty that I suggested that a quota of women should be received by all the medical schools at present refusing women. The main obstacle to adopting this solution, which appears to me to be the only logical and practical one, was the argument that while there remained one school restricted to women, the London School of Medicine for Women, it was only fair that there should be one or more schools restricted to men. The attitude of opposition to co-education taken by the L.S.M.W. is thus one of the chief hindrances to the acceptance of co-education as a general principle.

The Report of the Committee, composed as it was of persons holding very different views, must necessarily represent a compromise, and it is no doubt open to the reproach made by Miss Brittain that it is a "benign but tepid document." Perhaps because I was partly responsible for the appointment of the Committee—which was set up on the motion of Mr. Walter Spencer and myself—I believe that its Report marks a real advance in its recognition of the justice of the claims of the women and of the advantages of co-education in medicine. Co-education does not, I submit, imply, as some extremists have suggested, that approximately equal numbers of the sexes should be dealt with in each school. While the total number of women seeking admission to medicine remains so much smaller than that of the men such an ideal is impossible of realization. The experience of the one male school, University College Hospital, which takes a very limited number (twelve per annum) of women students, goes far to indicate that some such quota could be readily absorbed by all the schools. If that system were accepted the present urgent necessity for providing sufficient clinical facilities for women studying medicine in London would at once be met, in the best possible way.—Yours, &c.,

E. GRAHAM LITTLE.

House of Commons.

February 6th, 1929.

BANKS AND TRADE

SIR,—In view of the growing evidence of a change in policy on the part of the Bank of England and Joint Stock Banks, it is desirable to urge the advisability of a public inquiry into the whole question of financial policy. At this

inquiry not only financial experts should give evidence, but some persons representing industrial interests and also the consumer interest. Furthermore, the financial experts should not be allowed to act both as pleaders and judges. In this connection it is worth mention that the policy of the last seven to eight years, i.e., deflation—currency and credit contraction—was entered upon on the recommendation alone of a committee of financiers, i.e., the Cunliffe Currency Commission. The point of this letter is particularly to emphasize that research undertaken by this association shows that a policy of credit expansion—styled inflation—is not a remedy for its opposite of deflation, the very good reason being that it leaves out of consideration the important question of commodity prices and their relation to the communal income. There has been a good deal of research work into this latter aspect of the matter this last ten years, and if the aim is to establish a scientific financial system, the factor of price, the negative aspect of credit issue and withdrawal, should not be overlooked.—Yours, &c.,

For the Manchester Economic Research Association.

JOSEPH O'NEILL,

F.R.Econ.S., Secretary-Treasurer.

44, Victoria Buildings,

St. Mary's Gate, Manchester.

February 1st, 1929.

DISESTABLISHMENT

SIR,—In reference to Mr. Birrell's article in your issue of to-day, may I point out that, as in Ireland, the laity could be given enhanced powers on Disestablishment, so that the number of "Mass Priests" need not necessarily be augmented, but might, indeed, be diminished?—Yours, &c.,

LIBERATIONIST.

February 9th, 1929.

THE COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

SIR,—In his article on "Disestablishment by Consent," Mr. Birrell says: "But is it to be supposed that the Church of England is now ready and willing to be treated as a minority Church, and to give up, once for all, her claim to be considered the National Church?"

I think the answer is in the affirmative.

It is true the Revised Prayer Book has not been accepted by Parliament, but certain alterations were made in rubrics which would cause the Confirmation Rubric to govern admission to Communion. This rubric definitely forbids this to any but those confirmed according to the rites of the Church of England. Thus fully five-sixths of the people of England would be excommunicated by the National Church.

Archbishop Tait gave the definite ruling, supported by further advice, that any baptised parishioner, if he so wished it, unless a notorious evil liver, was entitled to all the rites and privileges of his parish church. The Courts have fully confirmed this.

Yet there can be little doubt that, with the altered rubrics, were a test case tried, these privileges would have gone.

These alterations were accepted by the House of Bishops, House of Clergy, and the House of Laity, and were confirmed by most Diocesan Conferences. So, apparently, the desire to be a close sect rather than an all-embracing National Church is approved by the Church of England. It is doubtful whether the majority of the full members of the Church of England would endorse this attitude, if they realized it, but apparently Anglo-Catholics have been able to insist upon it.

The questions of giving up prestige, privilege, and emoluments is a separate one.

But we see the Church placing a presumed Apostolic Succession as of greater importance than the all-embracing message of Christ or even of St. Paul. "Making the Word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye." (Mark vii.) This was Christ's reply to the Pharisees of his time.

There can be little doubt, I think, as to the answer to Mr. Birrell's question.—Yours, &c.,

"PARISHIONER."

February 9th, 1929.

EXAMINATIONS

SIR,—I was very interested to read Mr. Norman Keen's letter referring to Sir Michael Sadler's article on "Examinations." The New Educational Fellowship is at present conducting an inquiry into the examination system in England in preparation for its international conference at Elsinore this summer on "The New Psychology and the Curriculum." Representatives from the different countries will lay their evidence before the Conference, and an international memorandum will be drawn up. The work of the Conference will be followed up in England by a more extensive investigation of a scientific character covering the whole field.

The national representative for the inquiry in England is Mrs. S. Platt, who desires to be in close touch with all organizations and individuals specially interested in the investigation of the examination system. The New Education Fellowship inquiry, which views the problem mainly from a psychological standpoint, seeks to be as representative as possible, and evidence is being collected from educationalists, teachers, examiners, doctors, psychologists, inspectors, parents, business men, and others. I should like particularly to stress the value of the evidence which can be supplied by business men who are specially mentioned in Mr. Keen's letter, and to appeal through the courtesy of your columns for any evidence suitable for the purposes of the inquiry to be addressed to Mrs. S. Platt, New Education Fellowship, 11, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1. Does our present examination system tend to produce a type of man and woman capable and efficient in business life? The question is a very pertinent one.—Yours, &c.,

DOROTHY MATTHEWS.

February 6th, 1929.

STENDHAL'S "ARMANCE"

SIR,—In your issue of January 26th, an appreciative reviewer of my translation of Stendhal's "Armance" says that I seem "to have gone really astray only once: '... I have become worthy that people should take an interest in my salvation.'" This is an extract from a sentence which, in the original, runs: "C'est apparemment depuis le loi d'indemnité que je suis devenu digne que l'on s'occupe de mon salut et de l'influence que je puis avoir un jour." (Octave, having recently become heir to a fortune of two millions, has received a handsomely bound Bible from a devout noblewoman.)

I should be extremely grateful if your reviewer would supply me with what he considers to be the correct rendering of this sentence, in order that I may (with due acknowledgment) emend my text in the next edition. Reviews which condemn faults without pointing out where the fault lies are of negative value in my experience.

May I, in conclusion, congratulate you upon an admirable article, the first, I think, that has appeared in English upon the work of Italo Svevo, in your paper of January 12th?—Yours, &c.,

C. K. SCOTT MONCRIEFF.

67, via della Croce, Rome.

February 2nd, 1929.

[Our Reviewer writes: "I am afraid that, owing to my admittedly unfortunate phrasing, Mr. Scott Moncrieff has missed the point of my criticism. I did not for a moment mean to suggest that he had misinterpreted the original. What I meant was that in this instance his translation was not the best English. To me, the construction: '... I have become worthy that people should take an interest...' sounds somehow unEnglish. But it would be impertinent of me to offer any alternative."]

RUSSIAN NOVELISTS

SIR,—The devoted labours of expert translators from Russian into English have borne fruit, and many of your readers will, I am sure, agree with Mr. Leonard Woolf's remarks on the mastery of the Russian novelist.

The novel has, almost inevitably, been more widely studied than other branches of art; but it may be suggested that an analogous, passionate artistry is to be found in

Russian dancing, music and painting. As regards painting, to take one branch only, it may require an effort to move from the widely upheld standard of formal relations which has come to us from France; but study of Russian activity will, possibly, before long help to bring into wider view a standard in which humanistic and formal relations are combined.

The Russian artist is not usually content with method alone: he seems instinctively to seek the fusion of the actual and the formal in a fire of apprehension as, long ago, did the Scythian in the sensuous decoration of his metal work.

—Yours, &c.,

ERNEST H. R. COLLINGS.

"Brook," 8, Percival Road, East Sheen, S.W.14.

February 9th, 1929.

THE PRESENT POSITION OF LANGUAGE TEACHING

I.—LATIN OR GREEK?

UNTIL quite lately parents who had sent their sons to Public Schools were not, as a rule, easily moved to mistrust those dignified institutions. Inertia, pride of class, and a natural reluctance to face the fact that they might not be getting their money's worth, all supported a complacent belief that things could safely be left to the school authorities.

There are signs, however, that a more critical—and on the whole more constructively critical—attitude is becoming less uncommon, and some recently reported words of an Oxford don may help to shake the complacency of parents in at least one matter of importance—the present state of language teaching. The speaker, as reported, does not mince his words: "The standard of Latin has fallen and continues to fall. Few undergraduates know how to tackle an even moderately difficult piece of translation in a modern language. In nine and a half years' experience as a college tutor I have only had two pupils of English parentage who could read German books. Few men can read French books quickly." Allowing, perhaps, for a measure of exaggeration, we must be grateful to the speaker for calling attention to one of the several respects in which public and secondary schools are passing through what is sometimes called "a period of transition," but what might be called less politely, though more accurately, a period of bewildered compromise.

There is at present in the public schools more confusion with regard both to objects and methods in the teaching of languages than in any other subject of the curriculum.

The position of science and mathematics is assured. Nobody seriously denies that everyone ought to receive while at school some training in scientific method, and something more than acquaintance with at any rate one particular line of scientific thought. The position of mathematics is also for the moment comparatively free from contention. Everyone realizes, for one reason or another, that mathematics must be a part of general education, and that the old methods of teaching the subject were often stupid and wasteful; the moderate reformers of the last three decades have won and consolidated their objective; and so few people yet realize how revolutionary may be the most recent developments, both in aim and method, that the mathematical province may be fairly described as tranquil.

The position of languages, on the other hand, though the fact may be only half admitted by teachers, is somewhat chaotic. For this there are many causes, the chief one, perhaps, being that far too much attention has been paid to the views of specialists and experts. The province of an expert teacher of a subject is to determine *methods*.

The aim of a subject, that is to say, its place in the general scheme of education, is outside the specialist's range; and until a wider tribunal has determined this aim, and the time which can be given to the subject, discussion of methods is futile. English education has always been too ready to accept the specialist language teacher's valuation of his own subject. The first and worst offenders were the classicists, but they have long lost their bad pre-eminence to the teachers of modern languages, and especially of French.

It is difficult for anyone who knows the educational story of the last forty or fifty years not to feel a certain sympathy with the older school of classical teachers, however conscious he may be of their failings. One by one their trusted props upon which they leaned for so long were knocked away. It is true that these props were quite unjustified—the privileges of a vested interest. Latin and Greek were given preferential treatment in examination statutes and protected by carefully fostered social prejudice. Still, it is unpleasant to lose a privilege, even if one has no right to it. Last of all went "compulsory Greek." In the end, perhaps a rather distant end, the cause of Greek will gain by this change, for Greek will stand by its own worth, and those who believe in it are free to assert their faith openly without feeling that they are the unwilling allies of the reactionary and the ridiculous. For a time, however, a great many of the older classical teachers felt rather helpless.

Most people, however, now recognize that the educational sins of these old classical teachers were many. The most patent sin of all was that having at their disposal these two languages, the key to two wonderful literatures and civilizations, they made them for the greater number of boys completely lifeless. It is no use blinking the fact. When classical teachers wring their hands and complain that "the classics are dead," it is fair to reply that, if dead they are, the classical teachers more than anyone else have killed them. There was much wrong with the elementary teaching of Latin and Greek. But long after the early stages were over it is extraordinary what opportunities were missed. I know from experience how twenty years ago it was possible to be five years on the classical side of one of the greatest schools without reading a word of Greek history. There was no attempt that I can recall to connect ancient and modern literature, or to select books which would allow one to help the other. We read much Homer, doled out in chunks of forty lines, irrespective of the subject matter, but anything we learnt about epic poetry in general was learnt in private reading. Greek art was kept out altogether; Roman life and letters, for all we knew to the contrary, might have been ended—except for Juvenal—with Virgil, and Greek—except for the New Testament—with Demosthenes.

Criticism of this kind is common, and its justice is now recognized. No doubt the same mistakes are not made by classical teachers to-day. There are two sins of omission, however, with which the old classical teachers are less frequently charged, and I believe that it is highly important for education that these and their consequences should be recognized. First, they did not make either their pupils or the public realize the altogether pre-eminent value of Greek, and therefore the greater importance of learning Greek than of learning Latin; secondly, when the old classical monopoly was infringed, and the supporters of modern languages were claiming more time and influence, they failed to insist, as they might have insisted by the right kind of criticism, that their "modern" rivals should at least know exactly what they wanted and be competent to achieve it.

About the second accusation I shall have more to say later. The first is not likely to be denied. It is more probable that classical teachers will retort that if guilty they are not ashamed; that tradition and general practice, as well as the sound claims of philology, have alike settled that Latin must come first, and that, if only one ancient language is to be kept in the schools, Latin must remain.

Are we bound to accept the conventional verdict? Everybody is talking about the "crowded curriculum," and economic conditions are not likely to extend the length of school life. Who genuinely believes that in future many boys will be able to afford the time for two ancient languages? And if only one is to be kept, must it necessarily be Latin?

It is with great diffidence that, having no claim to be called a classical scholar, I plead that it is time for some schools, at any rate, to try the experiment of teaching Greek as the "second" language to boys who have not learnt, and are not going to learn, Latin. Outside the ranks of classical teachers there is a growing body of opinion (including that of not a few mathematicians and scientists) which appreciates the value of Greek more keenly, perhaps, than at any time since the Renaissance. Many parents are wondering whether the etymological argument is wholly on the side of Latin; and whether if "mental gymnastics" are still wanted by anyone they cannot be obtained through one language as well as through the other. Fathers, remembering their schooldays, sometimes recall a point to which many teachers are strangely blind, that in Greek, though not in Latin, as soon as the beginner can understand the meaning of simple sentences, he can be introduced not only to literature, but to literature which is interesting to a boy.

Many changes will have to be made before the experiment can have a fair trial, but two things might be done at once.

(1) Except perhaps in the very largest schools, where every demand can be catered for, the public schools should be divided not into "classical" and "modern," but into "language" and "science" sides. The curriculum of these sides and of the preparatory schools preparing for them cannot be settled in a day; but on the "language" side every facility should at once be given to those who wish to experiment with Greek as the "second" language following French, and there should be a fair choice as between Latin and German for the "third" language. Is it quite impossible, too, for experiments to be made with German as the "first" language?

(2) In every examination where one ancient language is compulsory, Greek should be made an alternative to Latin.

These measures will, at least, give encouragement to a headmaster who wants to introduce Greek into one of the new secondary schools, and perhaps the headmaster of some public school will be emboldened to try the experiment of abolishing the false distinction between "classical" and "modern" sides, and making Greek follow French as the second language on a "language" as opposed to a "science" side.

Meanwhile, the position of the ancient languages is in some measure paradoxical. Classical teachers lament the decline of their subject, but, through their past failure to emphasize the supreme importance of Greek, they have made it unnecessarily difficult for themselves, or anyone else, to take the bold offensive which is probably the way to save the best of what they prize. Nor is their distrust of well-intentioned experiment encouraging to those who would like to be their allies.

JAMES HERBERT.

DUNCAN GRANT

DUNCAN GRANT, like another gentleman in Europe, in a somewhat more difficult line of business, was born with the crown on his head, and, like that gentleman, Duncan has become, with the passage of years, in his line, the monarch of the longest standing in England. Mr. Moore has truly said that in England we must have a "grand old man." That it is a post, as it were, and we look about to fill it (with a photograph a week, truculent or wistful, *tour à tour*). Add that with the move gotten on everything, it is now even more urgent to have a grand young man. The succession to the theory must be secured. No sooner said than done. Duncan conquered, he saw, he came. By an extraordinary and happy accident the King in this business is not only *moins royaliste que le roi*. He is not royalist at all. And, strangest chance of all, he was born with the authentic tone. If, as we are told, that from the moment when we assume the eastward position and the words "I believe" are intoned, the first casualty is Truth, we must remember in estimating Duncan's work that no one has seen him assume the eastward position, nor has anyone heard him mumble a word of any creed. In his sleep I am convinced that neither the overworked word "vision," nor "volumes," the equivalent of the English "bumps," has passed his lips. Nor does he, even in dreams, give to the perspective that was invented before powder the consecrated name of "recession."

Duncan, I am sure, knows that for a living practitioner to formulate a creed or to declare his adhesion to a creed, is to put the cart before the horse. Historians may, at some convenient close of a period accept and use as a label a word that will enable you the quickest to look up a subject in a Dictionary. But the artist who formulates a creed in advance of his brush is formulating either a compromising threat, or a trivial advertisement. We have a creed in the Royal Academy, but we know better than to put it into words. Our creed is a passionate gratitude to the memory of George III., as expressed by Sir Francis Grant at the banquet of 1869, the first year of our occupation of Burlington House. *C'est une esthétique comme une autre*. The P.R.B., as a creed, was a piece of juvenile innocence. "Impressionism" was a journalists' catchword. It was at once repudiated by Degas. After the event, which is the only proper time for a critic to be wise, Clive Bell succeeded in finding the right name for the group. It should, he said, have been "The Pagans," which defines and describes them. Critics proper have no business with propaganda or crusade. They should be severe and neutral. Any other course is a kind of intellectual contempt of court. The evidence has not yet become available, and taking a hand in the shindy, the barufa, deprives a critic of his proper influence. Lord Hewart cannot sum up before the murder has been consummated.

It is for such reasons that the Post-Impressionist creed has been still-born. Where a writer as *aimable*, as lucid, as racy as Clive Bell has failed in the estimation of these nearer decades, all he says of the "Impressionist" period is excellent, because it is already in perspective.

Post-Impressionism, word and creed, is a purely Anglican incantation on a theme strictly French. It is the "Georges sans s" of the Anglomane. And who is its god? Cézanne, who was not "Post," but contemporary. If words have any meaning Cézanne was a semi-blighted member of the Impressionists.

We were invited to worship Cézanne. We were told in the same breath, I understand, that we are permitted to wave a censer before El Greco. But without any Abracadabra, what is the plain difference? Like the lady of whom Carlyle said, "She'd better," I accept El Greco.

First, El Greco was not present with a Hook easel at the chasing of the bankers from the Temple. Secondly, El Greco practised pre-tube painting. His pictures were emotion reassembled in tranquillity and solitude. His pictures were brought about ("amenés," to use the word of Degas) by successive full and liquid coats of paint in ordered progression from a *cameïeu*. There was no material matching of tones as Queen Victoria invited Benjamin Constant to practise on a sample length of the ribbon of the Order of the Bath. And El Greco knew that the idea of the true is best given, to quote Degas, by the false. By the side of such high intellectual transpositions the works of Cézanne are poverty-stricken reach-me-down. There is no connection whatever between El Greco and Cézanne, except the connection of direct antithesis. It makes me as cross as Moses. But I shall not break the tables of the law. I shall continue to bore my contemporaries by holding them up.

I am not inviting Duncan Grant to repudiate errors that he has never accepted in practice or theory, but I take a certain pleasure in compromising him by deducing from the qualities in his work a repudiation that he is in no way called upon to make in so many words. Where Cézanne is papery, Duncan's paintings are fat. Where they are skumble-skamble, Duncan's are sound, full, and resonant. They have the beautiful heaviness and roundness of the great marbles. The collection in the rooms of Paul Guillaume and Brandon Davis sends me away with the comfortable conviction that the King was born saved.

RICHARD SICKERT, A.R.A.

PLAYS AND PICTURES

THE Prometheus Vincetus of Æschylus" contains the minimum of action possible in a play. In producing it the Cambridge Festival Theatre have undertaken a very difficult task. The translation by Mr. R. C. Trevelyan, done with special reference to the Greek rhythms, speaks very smoothly, and is more than a good poetic rendering; it has real dramatic qualities. The production was less successful. A great deal of stylization is necessary in mounting any Greek play, and I think in "Prometheus" masks are essential; but the masks at the Festival, with the exception of those of the chorus, lacked significance and had no artistic *raison d'être*. Power and Violence were represented by grotesque figures placed on either side the proscenium, but the voices speaking from behind them were not sufficiently localized to give any impression of animation. The dramatic force of the opening was entirely lost owing to their lack of relation to the living figure of Hephaistos and to Prometheus, who should have been seen from the beginning, suffering the taunts of his enemies in silence, but was nowhere visible. Eventually it became clear that for lack of a better protagonist, we should have to make the best of an astonishing symbolic conception painted on the flat with an imbecile's head and lit by alternating lights like an electric sign. Modernity without imagination is certainly as tedious and more exasperating than the most prosaic Victorianism. Also the ridiculous is unfortunately no equivalent for the sublime. The movements of the chorus arranged by Miss Ninette de Valois, and the acting and speaking of the leader, were excellent. The music provided a suitable accompaniment to the speaking voice, and the use of a megaphone to increase resonance in certain more emotional passages was effective. The play was followed by some pleasant dancing by Miss Ninette de Valois, Mr. Hedley Briggs, and a small troupe, together with a short ballet preceded by a furious and empty poem by Ernst Toller.

Aimée and Philip Stuart have provided Miss Marie Tempest with a comedy exactly suited to her, in "Her Shop," now to be seen at the Criterion Theatre. Miss

Tempest's fascinating personality has full scope in the part of Lady Mary Torrent, a fashionable lady who starts a dressmaking establishment as a joke, and continues it as a game. It gives her an excellent opportunity of displaying her famous taste in dress, her charm and humour, and her infinite femininity. It need scarcely be said that the inexperienced Lady Mary contrives by "tact" and luck to get the better of everybody, including the Jew and the Scotsman from whom she buys her lease, as well as the husband who loves her—poor dolt! Altogether a very pleasant evening's relaxation, with a display of pretty frocks. The rest of the cast support Miss Tempest competently, notably Miss Ethel Ramsay in a difficult part deftly handled, but it is a one woman show.

Zola's "Thérèse Raquin" (well translated by Alexander Teixeira de Mattos), which has started recently at the Court Theatre, is one of the best "thrillers" that we have seen for a long time. Yet it is more than a mere "thriller," because its melodrama is closely interwoven with realistic character-study—more than that, is dependent upon and grows out of its characters. The full-blooded Thérèse, tied to the querulous invalid Camille who irritates her to the point of frenzy and has never satisfied her sexually, becomes the mistress of Camille's artist friend Laurent. Together they murder Camille under the guise of an accident, and continue to live in the same room above the little shop, under the eye of old Madame Raquin. The strain of their guilt haunts them and eventually leads them to give themselves away to the old woman, who is struck dumb and paralysed by the shock of discovery. Her happiness they have sought evades them and leads them, through fear, to suicide. Mr. Frank Birch's production, on the whole excellent, suffers only from over-restraint, and from an apparent desire to find in the play a greater subtlety, a more intellectual point of view, than it really aims at presenting: it demands a robust, a broader treatment. And Mr. Russell Thorndike as Laurent and Mr. Anthony Ireland as Camille are not sufficiently contrasted either in physique or manner, considering that the whole story depends on this—on a passion that is mainly physical. Miss Nancy Price and Miss Jane Wood give excellent performances as Madame Raquin and Thérèse.

The practice of play-writing seems to have progressed very little since Tom Robertson wrote "Caste." It is easy to say of the present revival at the Old Vic that the dialogue is stilted or too well-rounded, the characterization too simple or too superficial, the humour too primitive or too vulgar; but compare "Caste" with almost any present-day comedy, and you will find not only that it is a far better play, but that it presents an infinitely more effective and complete picture of contemporary life. Allowing for the conventions of the theatre, which have, of course, changed considerably, the founder of the "cup-and-saucer" drama—how the disciples of Irving must have derided this new naturalism which now begins to seem artificiality!—must be acknowledged to hold his own. The production, made by Mr. Andrew Leigh, is in the right spirit of seriousness, treating the play as it deserves to be treated, and probably very much as the Bancrofts treated it sixty years ago. Miss Rachel Berendt, the author's grand-daughter, has come from the Odéon to play Esther, and the Vic Shakespeare company, especially Miss Adèle Dixon as Polly and Mr. Reyner Barton as Captain Hawtree, give her all possible support. We knew that Robertson's influence was still felt by English dramatists, and now we must thank Miss Lilian Baylis, alone of London managers, for celebrating his centenary, and reminding us that he is no back number.

How sad to turn from the vigour and vivacity of "Caste," to such stuff as South Sea Island plays are made on. "Always Afternoon," Messrs. Ralph Stock and C. B. Fernald's play at the Lyric, is so much the South Sea syrup mixture-as-before that to ward off pessimism one has to remind oneself that Robertson was no more representative of his age than this repetition of half a dozen recent plays we have succeeded in forgetting is of our own. Here,

once more, is the Englishman with mat fever and a taste for Kava and untidy hair, the young man who has hereditary leanings for these things, but is saved in time, the titled Englishwoman (she has a slight cockney accent, but what of that?) who is writing a book and never omits the definite article from her notes, and the comic storekeeper who divides his time between uttering "wise-cracks" and kicking the native—but the catalogue is as tedious as the play itself. Miss Rosalinde Fuller's excellent performance is a redeeming feature, but neither that nor Mr. Malcolm Keen's beachcomber serve to bring redemption.

Sir Hall Caine's story "The Bondman," improbable and unconvincing as it is both from the psychological and the practical point of view, might conceivably, if it had been treated in the competent and expensive Hollywood manner, have been made into a fairly entertaining film of the conventional romantic kind. The British version, made by Mr. Herbert Wilcox and showing at the Marble Arch Pavilion, quite fails to achieve this. The story is unfolded so tamely that even its most dramatic moments leave us entirely unmoved, and have an air of unreality which, even for this type of film, in which one is prepared to accept a certain convention of improbability, is excessive. Nor is the acting much more distinguished. Mr. Norman Kerry, the well-known American star, gives a competent performance in the part of "Jason, the Bondman," but receives little support from his leading lady, Miss Frances Cuyler, or from Mr. Donald McCardle as Michael, neither of whom succeed in giving any semblance of life to the characters they portray. But "The Bondman" is a masterpiece compared to another British production, "Cupid in Clover," which was trade-shown last week. The object of this, apparently, was to show pictures of the English countryside, but the methods of photography and production were those of about twenty years ago; the acting was feeble and the casting singularly unfortunate.

Things to see and hear in the coming week:—

Saturday, February 16th.—

The Budapest Trio Orchestral Concert, Queen's Hall, 8.

Major Leonard Darwin, on "The Coming of Age of the Eugenics Society," at the Galton Dinner, Rembrandt Hotel, Brompton Road, 7.15.

Sunday, February 17th.—

Mr. C. E. M. Joad, on "The Future of Civilization," South Place, 11.

The International Theatre in "Peace, War, and Revolution," by Wacław Grubinski, English version at the Royalty.

Incorporated Stage Society's production of Benevento's "The Princess."

"La Parisienne," at the Arts Theatre.

Monday, February 18th.—

"The Merry Wives of Windsor," at the Old Vic, 7.30.

Tuesday, February 19th.—

Drama League, Debate between Mr. Geoffrey Whitworth and Mr. John van Druten, "That the Censor of Plays is a Public Benefactor," 8, Adelphi Terrace, 8.30.

Discussion between Miss Eleanor Rathbone and Professor D. H. Macgregor, on "Should Wages be Supplemented by Family Allowances?" the Wireless, 7.

Hungarian String Quartet, Wigmore Hall, 8.15.

"Hoppla!" by Ernst Toller, at Gate Theatre Studio.

Wednesday, February 20th.—

Suggia, 'Cello Recital, Wigmore Hall, 5.30.

Thursday, February 21st.—

Viscount Cecil, on "Arbitration," Morley College, 61, Westminster Bridge Road, 8.

Royal Philharmonic Society's Concert, Queen's Hall, 8.

Harold Craxton, Piano Recital, Wigmore Hall, 8.30.

Friday, February 22nd.—

Gerald Cooper, Chamber Concert, Æolian Hall, 8.30.

Discussion between Mr. Compton Mackenzie and Mr. Robert Boothby, on "Scottish Nationalism," the Wireless, 9.20.

OMICRON.

THE WORLD OF BOOKS

"FORCE IS NO REMEDY"

THE book which was to have been discussed in this column this week was "The Decline of the West," by Oswald Spengler, Vol. II. (Allen & Unwin, 21s.). But my friend Mr. Edwyn Bevan in a letter in last week's NATION has challenged me with regard to my article on Dean Inge's book, and seeks to fasten upon me a quarrel of his own choosing with regard to the maxim "Force is no remedy." Like most pacifists, I cannot resist a quarrel. I propose, therefore, to discuss this maxim and, thereby, implicitly discuss "The Decline of the West," for Spengler is one of those brilliant, mystical quacks, so characteristic of the present time, whose philosophy is a cross between "Thus Spake Zarathustra" and "The Apocalypse," and who come very near to preaching that force is the only remedy.

* * *

Mr. Bevan challenges me on the subject of the efficacy of force and complains that I left the question in a fog. In my article I was not writing a treatise on the efficacy of violence, but was performing the legitimate function of a journalist, namely, examining the mind and opinions of Dean Inge as self-revealed to the public in a book on politics and religion, "Assessments and Anticipations" (Cassell, 7s. 6d.). In that book Dean Inge says that the maxim "Force is no remedy" is "one of the silliest ever coined by misdirected ingenuity." Mr. Bevan objects to my "dragging in" the authority of Jesus Christ, and says that it is a mere "debating score" to point out that some Christians believe that the maxim was held by Christ about 1,800 years before the first Liberal came into existence. But it is nothing of the sort; it is a point of the highest significance when the moral and political teaching of a man like Dean Inge is the subject of discussion. Here is a man who has won great distinction and occupies high office in the Church of Christ; he earns his living by professing to preach the religion of Christ. Now the doctrine that "force is no remedy" in its extreme sense—namely, that force in no case can be the means of bringing about a desirable result—may not be true (I do not myself think that it is), but it is most certainly not "the silliest maxim ever invented." A good deal can be said in its support, and some of the greatest men and women of history have believed in it, including Jesus Christ. Surely when the Dean of St. Paul's tells the thousands of his readers that it is the silliest maxim ever invented, it is relevant to recall the fact that it is a maxim of Jesus Christ. And it is the more relevant because the Dean's remarks about modern pacifists, Liberals, armies and navies, and using force against rebels in Ireland, show that his sneers are directed not merely against the doctrine of Christ, but against much more limited and practical doctrines with regard to the inefficacy of force. Surely the attitude of the Churches towards war and violence and nationalism and imperialism is of some importance and cannot be dissociated from the doctrines of Christianity which those Churches profess to teach us.

* * *

Mr. Bevan, however, challenges me to settle once and for all the whole question of the efficacy of force, to say exactly what I believe myself, and to tell him how far my view really differs from the Dean's. The last six hundred words of this article must be devoted to the performance of this simple task. To begin with the simplest

part of it, the extent by which my view differs from that of the Dean of St. Paul's is, I should say, approximately very nearly equivalent to the breadth of the universe. I believe that force is always an evil. For an individual or community to impose its will on other individuals or communities by force is always a bad thing, bad for the imposers and bad for the imposees. One side of civilization consists in and depends on the elimination of force as a weapon of will and the substitution for it of persuasion, agreement, adjudication. (This is the exact opposite of the view of Spengler and, as it seems to me, of Dean Inge.) But that does not mean that force may not, in certain cases, be a necessary evil, or that, in a complex situation, a more desirable state of things may not exist after the use of force than before it.

* * *

The main question is the efficacy of force in the internal and external relations of communities, and the truth appears to be as follows. The use of force by individuals to obtain their ends is always bad and produces an undesirable state of things. A more desirable state of things may, however, exist within a community if the community itself uses force to establish a framework of civilized life than if it allows individuals to regulate their relations by force. But the less force is used and the more relations are regulated by agreement and adjudication, the better is the state of things and the more civilized the community. In the external relations of communities, the use of force by one community to impose its will on another is always a bad thing. And here it must be observed that the state of things after a war as compared with the state of things before a war is not the only element to be considered. It was, I think, desirable that English rule should cease in the fifteenth century in France. But even if it had been impossible to get the English out of France except by war, it does not follow that the total state of things in France and Europe, *including the period of the war*, was better with the war than it would have been with no war. The effects of war, of force used between communities, are so terrific compared with the effects of force used between or upon individuals that they are not commensurable. Looking back over history, it is impossible to say that there has ever been a war which did not leave the victors, the vanquished, and the whole world with a very considerable balance of evils. It is, I think, possible that the preventative use of force by the community of nations may justify itself as a necessary evil. In that sense, and in that sense alone, force may prove a remedy. But even that is not certain, and in the end Christ and Tolstoy may prove to have been less silly than we think. At any rate, people like Spengler who romantically worship force, and people like Dean Inge who sneer at attempts to eliminate the use of force in international or intercommunal relations, have nothing in common with those who believe that civilization consists in something other than conquest, rule, empires, glory, and the imposition of the will of Genghis Khan, Napoleon, "Britain," "France," or "Germany," as the case may be, on some "less civilized" community. I hope that this time no fog has been left around the controversy. Controversies become foggiest when an attempt is made to prove that two persons whose ideas and ideals are at opposite poles "really think the same if they only knew it."

LEONARD WOOLF.

REVIEWS

AMONG THE GHOSTS

A Fatalist at War. By RUDOLF BINDING. Translated by IAN F. D. MORROW. (Allen & Unwin. 10s. 6d.)

SEEING that one had to go through the War, one may be allowed to wish several matters in one's experience improved. We lay out that experience for kit inspection, and are aware of deficiencies. Some are sorry that they never saw Ypres in the days of the civilians; others, that the battalion only stopped one night at Bailleul; others even that they missed March 21st, 1918. And I should have thought a little better of fate if I could have had for my company commander the author of the present book; not that my actual fortune in the characters of my trench companions was anything but good, but the addition of this splendid mind and serene patience would have been superlatively good. It appears that Rudolf Binding in 1916 was old enough to be the father of most of us; admirable; I see him in my mind's eye sharing all our views, clearing them of their muddled clouds, controlling our recklessness without seeming to control, and "getting on with the job."

At any rate I may claim to have been Captain Binding's neighbour, over the way, during part of his long war. He was, of course, at Passchendaele in 1914, and Langemarck in 1915, and up and down the line thereabouts in 1916; in 1917 he came north from the Somme once more, as so many of us did, to see whether Passchendaele, Langemarck, and the region could change hands. He remembers the sultry, smouldering weeks before July 31st, 1917. He saw us coming. "Canvas camps of 200 or more big tents appear overnight like mushrooms; there are whole towns of hutments; munition dumps are being established close up to the front"; he speaks of the sensation of being in a furnace, soon to be at white heat. One felt that perhaps even more severely in the narrow Salient under High Command, Passchendaele, Stirling Castle, and Hill Sixty. Finally the autumn of 1917 found us all in shell-holes and pill-boxes waiting for the next direct hit, and Captain Binding was appalled at the state of the sleepy villages which had been mildly ruined in 1914, but now were mud. There we are with him. The old flies in the dugouts bit him and bit me. The last look at the place where Passchendaele had been was one of the worst moments. We knew Poperinghe as our city of refuge, he knew Roulers; we saw the same defilement and heard the same chorus of evil spirits.

"I reckon," wrote our author on February 12th, 1918, "that for the future the War will simply go to pieces, hastened possibly by some tremendous cataclysm." This is the man who should have been by me at midnight of December 31st, 1917, staring from a hilltop over the white battlefield round Ypres under the coldest starlight ever felt, and wondering. But, had it been known, the end was now more or less calculable. The German offensive was in preparation—that most audacious of all Western Front movements. This was the cataclysm. Captain Binding's letters from this new and monstrous battle are among the best of his pages. The whole line moving! "It is impossible to sleep for excitement. Really one would like to be after them day and night, and only longs that there shall be no rest until one can feel the first breath of the Atlantic in Amiens." But even that, which cannot be called a dishonourable vision of victory, was to be denied. One remembers the "green country" which perpetually lay at the other edge of the Somme battlefield. When Binding saw that there was no chance of that western wind on his forehead after years of steel helmets, he stood firm in his deeper humanity. "July 19th, 1918. Since our experiences of July 16th I know that we are finished. My thoughts oppress me. How are we to recover ourselves? *Kultur*, as it will be known after the War, will be of no use; mankind itself will probably be of still less use. We must get away out of ourselves, away from folly, away from delusion, from stupidity, shallowness, lower pleasures, and from the commonplace."

True; but the writer had already seen that there was one thing from which a number of us would never get away. And that is Flanders. We may for a time find that it is misty, shrouded, colourless; and then, we are standing with

the inspired author of "A Fatalist at War," watching the peasant's dog-cart and the ammunition lorry on their clattering way through the blue-gleaming square, or the company cook with his dixies under the château beeches; we are in a strange element, where the wind and rain are full of tragic mysteries, plots and passions which we cannot fathom, but for the moment there is a light on the old walls and new faces which we shall know if ever we discern it again.

EDMUND BLUNDEN.

NEW NOVELS

Old Enchantment. By LARRY BARRETTO. (Allen & Unwin. 7s. 6d.)

The Squire's Daughter. By F. M. MAYOR. (Constable. 7s. 6d.)

The Case for the Defendant. By H. AUFRICHT-RUDA. (Allen & Unwin. 7s. 6d.)

Portrait in a Mirror. By CHARLES MORGAN. (Macmillan. 7s. 6d.)

Wide Fields. By PAUL GREEN. (Gollancz. 7s. 6d.)

Darkened Rooms. By PHILIP GIBBS. (Hutchinson. 7s. 6d.)

Lily Christine. By MICHAEL ARLEN. (Hutchinson. 7s. 6d.)

The King Who Was a King. By H. G. WELLS. (Benn. 7s. 6d.)

HEADING this list are two more novels written round the venerable theme of the desertion of birth and culture by riches. We should cherish them, for the theme grows almost too old to be tragic; the distinctions between well-born and common stock, between the sensitiveness of culture and the vitality of ignorance are far less sharp and sudden now than fifty years ago, and in another fifty years they may be gone. Audrey and Alexander Portland in "Old Enchantment" are born into the extreme but well-concealed poverty that has overtaken the Portland family in twentieth-century New York. The father and great-aunt Ellen are determined, however, that the children shall make up in pride and breeding for what they lack in education and social opportunities; both are handsome, and the girl is spirited. Consciousness of secret superiority, even when the coming of the barrow merchant puts its seal on the decay of their street, tides them over many deprivations. The age-begrimed Ruysdael on their walls hangs as a banner to which they pin their faith. But the day arrives when even that must be taken down to be sold, and then the terrible discovery is made: it isn't a genuine Ruysdael at all. Their fastidiousness, their ideals, their exquisite dead background—these may be fakes too. Poverty fails to prove them so, but it exposes them contemptuously to the vulgar pushing and scrambling of modern New York and defies them to survive in it. Audrey is the first to see the necessity for adaptation. She leaves home and dances at a night club for her living, falls in love with Jack Harris (dark and powerful, the Self-made Man). She refuses to become his mistress, but Mrs. Harris is jealous, and Audrey, though innocent, compromised: the solution—divorce and marriage. Alexander's marriage, though less spectacular, is as little to Aunt Ellen's taste. We sympathize with her horror. Until the night club, "Old Enchantment" is humorous and moving. In a sense Mr. Barretto passes the climacteric—usually about page 220 in the average novel, and frequently fatal to it—with the unpretentious skill which he shows in the earlier part of the story, but the conventional romance of the ending is peculiarly unsatisfying. Our wish all through is not to see the boy and girl married, independent of birth and unhampered by poverty, but simply to know them better. The last part of the book rules out that intenser revelation of character by which the real drama of the story might have been completed.

"The Squire's Daughter," apart from a cousinship in subject-matter, is another kind of book altogether—strong where "Old Enchantment" is weak, weak where that is strong. It is less level in performance and less shapely in design than "The Rector's Daughter," but when it touches the emotions it touches them at a deeper level than Miss Mayor's earlier novel, and it is just as witty. "The Squire's Daughter" grows from diffuseness into integrity, slow in starting, fragmentary and elusive. Now and then the heroine, Ron de Lacey, goes from Carne, the family seat, to the flat of a disreputable brother in town, or the house of a respectable aunt, or returns from a series of visits to Carne; but movements, places, and events have little

WINTER SONATA

A Novel by
Dorothy Edwards

"rewards its reader with a pleasure intense and fine."—*The Spectator*.

"*Winter Sonata* is a lovely and a forbidding book. It is the only one of these novels which is a work of art, and there is something disturbing and terrifying about the mixture of beauty and selfishness which it so quietly reveals."—CYRIL CONNOLLY.

6s. net.

By the same author: *Rhapsody*.

HUMOURS UNRECONCILED

by Sherard Vines

"This really brilliant tragi-comedy . . . presented with amazing vitality and dancing malice."—*Spectator*.

"Mr. Sherard Vines is also a genuine artist. This . . . is a sparkling, scintillating piece of work."—EDWARD CRICKMAY in the *Referee*.

"Complete accomplishment . . . amusing . . . a polished ironic prose."—*The Times Literary Supplement*.

"Unusually attractive."—*Sunday Times*.

7s. 6d. net.

INVOCATIONS TO ANGELS

Poems by Edgell Rickword

"Few living poets have a more certain command of technique, and he accepts nothing secondhand in either thought or manner."—HUMBERT WOLFE in the *Observer*.

5s. net.

THE HIGH PYRENEES IN SUMMER AND WINTER

by Becket Williams

"This is a delightful book, and something new in travel books."—*British Weekly*.

"A guide book of the first class. It combines all the facts one expects to find . . . embodied in a narrative that is most readable and entertaining."—*Daily Telegraph*.

Map. 28 illustrations. 7s. 6d. net.

WISHART & COMPANY
19 Buckingham Street, W.C.2.

DUCKWORTH

The Mythology of Reparations

By Robert Crozier Long. 6s. net.

"An important and timely book in view of the present attempt to reach a final settlement of reparations."—*Foreign Affairs*.

"Every politician should study what Mr. Long says."—*Sunday Dispatch*.

"A remarkable book . . . filled with incontrovertible facts and figures and sound reasoning by Mr. Long, who writes with the authority of a man who has devoted himself for many years to the examination of economic conditions in Germany."—*The Daily Mail*.

"It is not too much to say that Mr. Long demands the attention of every student of reparations, particularly at this time when the problem of the final settlement is at last about to be tackled."—*The Manchester Guardian*.

By Edmund Blunden

Author of "UNDERTONES OF WAR," etc.

ENGLISH POEMS [Revised Edition]

(New Readers' Library). Cloth, 3/6 net.

Because I've Not Been There Before

Being extracts from the correspondence of OSWALD LEWIS, M.A. (Oxon.), F.Z.S., F.R.G.S., while travelling round the world in 1926-27.

With 65 Illustrations. Cloth, 21/- net.

"As lively and entertaining a travel book as we have seen for some time."—*Sunday Times*.

Crusaders

THE REMINISCENCES OF CONSTANCE SMEDLEY, Founder of the International Lyceum Club. With 8 Illustrations. Cloth, 15/- net.

Constance Smedley is one of the noble women of our time, a woman whose life has been spent in making beautiful dreams come true.

Agricultural Entomology

By D. H. ROBINSON, B.Sc. (Lond.), Head of the Biology Dept., Harper Adams Agricultural College, Newport, Salop, and S. C. JARY, M.A. (Cantab.).

With about 140 Illustrations. Cloth, 15/- net.

A knowledge of the subject dealt with here is essential to all practical agriculturists.

The book describes the structure, life-history, habits, and classification of insects, giving concise information.

Insect pests are grouped under their respective orders, and types of them are illustrated by drawings or photographs. The most recent methods of combating them and the general principles underlying the control of them are explained.

The composition and application of insecticides are dealt with at length; as are also the attacks of mites, eel worms, slugs, etc., which, though not scientifically classed as insects, cause much trouble.

GERALD DUCKWORTH & Co. Ltd.
3, Henrietta Street, London, W.C.

importance compared with conversations—innumerable conversations and particles of conversations, gossip, of the family, of the village, of the servants' hall. Gradually the reader begins to hunger after something more solid than conversations. Then Miss Mayor gives something more solid, a coherence comes into the story, and so cunningly that it appears to have been there from the beginning. Ron takes form before us, and when she does we are persuaded that we have known her from the first chapter. The plot and the scene are ordinary. The de Lacey's have to sell their house, and premature senile decay overtakes Sir Geoffrey de Lacey, Ron's father, broken by the war, his financial worries, and the sorrow of giving up Carne. Ron, in so far as she is neurotic, cynical, fast, extravagant, free and caustic in her speech, addicted to rouge and narcotic tabloids, is the typical modern girl of the evening newspapers. But she is as much more complicated than the typical modern girl as Shylock is more subtle than Marlowe's Jew of Malta. She is silly and aggravating, but never futile, and she is pathetic without losing her dignity, but how we know her at all is something of a mystery. No one in the book explains or analyzes her successfully. The truth about her forces its way wordlessly through the half-truths and criticisms of the other characters.

The truth about the characters in "The Case for the Defendant," a first novel translated from the German, never quite emerges. "La Roncière! What sort of a fellow are you really?" a friend of the hero asks him. No one knows. Marie, the daughter of La Roncière's colonel, is a queer little creature out of a convent, whose life has been overshadowed by the death of five brothers on the same battlefield. She pretends that La Roncière has assaulted her, and, in spite of the childishness of some of the evidence, the court finds him guilty. Apparently Marie was in love with him, but so made that she could express her love in no other way. Apparently he is in love with her, and goes to prison for four years rather than clear himself. The author pitchforks his characters with such nonchalance into this pathological jungle that it is difficult not to accept it as a piece of reality. The characters themselves from time to time start into action so vivid or speech so lucid that the confusion and tongues in the intervening spaces are almost pardoned. It is an ungainly piece of work, something caught at an unhappy stage, growing out of its coat while you watch it. There may be a much better novel to come, as vigorous and more sane.

"Portrait in a Mirror" raises no hopes of anything better to come, and the confusion of sentiment and analysis and philosophizing is scarcely to be pardoned for the sake of a few brilliant pieces of writing. It might perhaps be broken up into two or three short stories—though scarcely stories, things too delicate to have a point: the best, a story about a young man making his first journey through a strange house, and trespassing in a deserted, childless nursery on his way downstairs. "It was empty, tidy, a little forlorn. But the rocking-horse, a grey and white beast on curved green rockers, was vigorously alive. Someone had lately rejuvenated his distended nostrils with a new coat of vermilion, which gave a veteran so scarred, so bald, so battered in ancient campaigns, an aspect of peculiar ferocity. All else was old, but the nostrils were freshly glistening; I touched them, and found they were wet: the paint clung to my finger. . . ." Nigel smells it, and finds it is oil paint, so there must be another artist besides himself in the house. But the games which should follow these charming gambits are never played out. Everything is engulfed in the viscid egoism and eroticism of Nigel's first love affair. Mr. Morgan exaggerates the obligation of an author to sympathize with the adolescent.

"Wide Fields" is a collection of short stories, studies of life in North Carolina, where people are still unsophisticated, laying themselves open very easily to ridicule, especially when a religious revival is in season, laying themselves open to pity by their helpless misery when the good God sends disaster or disease or unwanted offspring.

Mr. Michael Arlen is growing much pleasanter, and Sir Philip Gibbs much more unpleasant: both are more readable.

To Mr. Wells a paragraph by himself. For most of us,

reading Mr. Wells is a habit that cannot be broken. We must see what he will be at next, and what he will make of it. This time it is scenario writing, and whether he makes much of it or not depends a good deal on what we hope the film of the future will give us. The tinsel romance of majesty, as popularized by Anthony Hope, is intertwined with strong peace propaganda, but apart from the moral and the prolific and exhausting symbolism, it is singularly like the film as we know it, as trite in its psychology, as mechanical in its drama. This is not altogether Mr. Wells's fault. Probably nothing can cure the film of the obstinacy with which it returns to type, to the bad old pattern of a film. For art, like broth, is an individual, not a communal, affair, and always suffers when a diversity of minds and hands are employed upon it. Consider how seldom we see art in the theatre, how still more seldom in the opera house. To look for it on the screen implies a temperament more than usually hopeful—such as Mr. Wells's.

LYN LL. IRVINE.

PRESIDENT HOOVER

Hoover: A Reminiscent Biography. By WILL IRWIN. (Mathews & Marrott. 7s. 6d.)

MR. IRWIN wrote this eloquent tribute to the President-elect in anticipation of last year's political campaign, and it appears in England just as Washington is preparing for the inauguration. Herbert Hoover and Will Irwin were college friends in California, and the biographer worked for his hero in Belgium during a good part of the time when the unparalleled task of feeding the millions of people in the occupied area was being carried out. That is to say, the Hoover legend took shape directly under Mr. Irwin's eye, and it is fair to say that he had not a little to do with the building of a reputation that has no analogue in the modern world. For the writing of a campaign memoir Mr. Irwin's qualifications could not be improved upon, but it is not unlikely that as a guide to the President's political character and purposes the English reader would, at the present stage, prefer a more detached American observer. The book, however, is very good, the work of a practised writer, combining a talent for vivid narrative with the ability to give something approaching concreteness to a remarkable man who, lacking all means of self-expression, is most difficult to portray. We get an excellent account of Mr. Hoover's early struggles, from the farm in Iowa to the astonishing series of successes which made him, before he was thirty, one of the world's outstanding figures in mine engineering. There follows a curious gap. Mr. Irwin skips over the years before the war, during which Mr. Hoover went through trying experiences connected with the Chinese mines—experiences which, by the by, the rival American biographer, Mr. William Hard, treats with the fullness and resonance of the complete advocate. In describing the achievement in Belgium, the food control in America, and the organization of the immense business of post-war relief in Central Europe, Mr. Irwin is at home. The picture is too sustained in its exaltation: Mr. Hoover cannot have been at all times so superlatively right and wise; the Ministers and officials with whom he came at times into conflict could in many cases have made out a more convincing case for themselves, before America's entry into the war, than the director of the American Commission realized or than his eulogist will allow. But, when all is said, the job was magnificent, and the man who carried it through was probably the one man in the neutral world who could successfully have undertaken it. That Mr. Hoover should, after working at his profession in five continents and then becoming uniquely famous as a saviour of European peoples, be elected President of the United States in succession to two such politicians as Harding and Coolidge, is the latest and not the least baffling mystery of the representative system. Mr. Irwin does not discuss him in this relation. He presents him rather as the centre of a drama of civilization such as was never before enacted. And, whatever as President he may prove to be, that earlier Hoover will live in history and in myth.

A NEW PEPYS VOLUME
**Further Correspondence of
 Samuel Pepys**
 1662-1669

Edited by J. R. Tanner, Litt.D. 18s. net

"The interest and value of these letters are unquestionable," says *The Times*.

Many of them supplement entries in the Diary relating to Pepys's work for the Navy, and contain his views (expressed without reserve!) on matters official and unofficial.

LONDON: G. BELL AND SONS, LTD.

A NEW HISTORY of the AMERICAN NATION
The United States
T. C. Pease

744 Pages. 35 Maps. 16s. net.

PROFESSOR PEASE's book is thoroughly comprehensive and takes its subject right down to the present day.

Business, Social Life and Culture are given their proper place beside History in its narrower sense, and the very fair-minded sketch of the Great War from the American point of view is particularly instructive.

LONDON: G. BELL AND SONS, LTD.

AN INSIDE VIEW OF TRADE UNIONISM
Trade Union Documents

Edited by W. Milne-Bailey

580 Pages. 8s. 6d. net.

MR. MILNE-BAILEY is the Secretary of the Research Department of the Trade Union Congress.

These documents have been drawn from all sources, Trade Unions, Employers' Associations, Official, etc., giving the reader an inside view of the organisation and activities of Modern Trade Unionism, such as has not been available before.

LONDON: G. BELL AND SONS, LTD.

"THE BEST HANDBOOK TO THE PLAY"
 New Statesman.

Goethe and Faust

An Interpretation

F. M. Stawell and G. Lowes Dickinson

15s. net.

MODERN FIRST EDITIONS

We wish to purchase first editions of esteemed modern authors. We are prepared to buy at the prices indicated, fine copies of the following first editions:—

Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, £25; *The Dynasts*, £14; Tomlinson, *Sea and Jungle*, £14; Galsworthy, *Man of Property*, £25; Douglas, *South Wind*, £10; McFee, *Letters of an Ocean Tramp*, £6; Shaw, *Plays Pleasant and Unpleasant*, £25; Butler, *Way of all Flesh*, £12; Bennett, *Old Wives' Tales*, £15.

Please offer us all first editions of Shaw, Galsworthy, Kipling, Hardy, Douglas, De La Mare, Conrad, Barrie, McFee, Wilde, Hudson, Montague, Sassoon, Herman Melville, A. E. Housman, Beerbohm, Lawrence, and James Stephens.

DAVIS & ORIOLI

30 MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.1.

*Just
 Published!*

LILY CHRISTINE
 BY
MICHAEL ARLEN

Author of "The Green Hat," etc.

Daily Express: "It is a miracle of art."

Sunday Dispatch: "Easily his best book . . . well written . . . engages the reader from the first page to the last."

Daily Mail: "Brilliantly written."

Evening Standard: "Extremely clever."

Morning Post: "The charm of this author's style . . . was never more manifest."

M. Daily Dispatch: "Brilliant and ironic."

Daily Mirror: "Very clever and discerning."

Obtainable at 7/6

Send Post Card for Spring List No. 48.

HUTCHINSON
 & Co. (Publishers) Ltd., Paternoster Row, E.C.4.
 Also Publishers of HUTCHINSON'S MAGAZINE
 and WOMAN. 1/- each Monthly.

**LORD HALDANE'S
 AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

Lord Haldane had a long and vigorous life, many social and intellectual interests, a grand humour and a fine, straight, keen style of writing. This is a thoughtful and a great book.

Published February 21st. 25s.

J. & E. BUMPUS LTD.

Booksellers to His Majesty the King,
 350 Oxford Street, W.

To Book Collectors

MESSRS. SOTHERAN would put themselves at the service of Collectors or Students who are in want of books, of which they will endeavour to find and report particulars and price, without any obligation to the inquirer. This applies to foreign as well as English books, and also to newly-published Continental books, both in Literature and Science.

HENRY SOTHERAN & CO.

140 STRAND, W.C.2, and 43 PICCADILLY, W.1

Telegraphic and

Cable Address:

Bookmen, London.

Telephones:

(Strand) Central 1515.

(Piccadilly) Gerrard 7741.

LEIBNIZ AND SPINOZA

Leibniz. By PROFESSOR WILDON CARR. (Benn. 12s. 6d.)**Spinoza.** By PROFESSOR LEON ROTH. (Benn. 12s. 6d.)

THESE two volumes are the first of a new series of monographs on the Philosophers who have mainly influenced Western thought. If the volumes in preparation reach the level of the first two, the publisher and editor of the series may be heartily congratulated. The books are unusually well produced, and Professor Carr and Professor Roth have done their work so well that they are as pleasant to read as they are to look at. Both writers are clear, definite, concise, and learned. Their methods of exposition are, however, different. Professor Carr's book is a series of essays covering not only Leibniz's philosophy, but his life, his times, the intellectual atmosphere in which he wrote, his debts to his predecessors and to his contemporaries, and his influence upon the future. There are two particularly valuable chapters at the end of the book on the relation of Leibniz's philosophy to modern developments in physical science. Looking backwards in the light of relativity theory and the modern conception of the atom, Professor Carr's verdict is that Leibniz was the first philosopher to anticipate the methods and principles of the twentieth-century scientist. "What modern science has come to recognize," says Professor Carr, "is that the physical reality it requires can only be attained by an active work of ideal construction, and such work can only be undertaken from individual standpoints under subjective conditions of observation." Leibniz believed that the universe is composed of an infinite number of spiritual monads each of which mirrors the universe in its perceptions. But the world picture of each monad is different, being conditioned in part by its range of effective action. As the range of action varies, so does the world which the monad perceives, which thus continually adapts itself to the monad's outlook. The analogy between the monad with its frame of reference depending upon its range of action, and the observer of modern relativity theory is obvious (Leibniz would have heartily endorsed the hypothetical world picture of a barnacle in J. B. S. Haldane's "Possible Worlds"), and, though some might hazard a doubt whether Professor Carr's reading of the findings of modern science is not, perhaps, a little unduly coloured by his Idealist proclivities, there can be no two opinions as to the instructiveness of the parallel which he draws between the principles and methods first enunciated by Leibniz in metaphysics, and the principles and methods which are actually followed in modern physics.

"Modern science," he concludes, "has found it necessary in its own interests to reject definitely the 'outside' theory of knowledge, and to recognize as a condition of all observation of the phenomena of nature the position of the observer as himself within the system which he is observing, and by that position himself laying down . . . the conditions to which the observation must conform." Quite so! And that is precisely Leibniz's theory of the mirroring by the monads of the whole universe from their own particular standpoints.

Professor Roth's method is more objective. As far as possible he lets Spinoza speak for himself, giving numerous quotations from his works strung together with a running commentary. The commentary is always lucid and to the point, while such criticisms as are offered are mainly those which were made in Spinoza's own lifetime, and to which replies can be found in his writings.

The influence of Spinoza on Western thought is not so easily discernible as that of Leibniz. His greatness is ethical rather than metaphysical, and was misunderstood by his contemporaries, who regarded him as a profound metaphysician but a wicked man. His conception of the deity, the central feature of his system, is, indeed, frankly untenable, God, envisaged as an all-embracing and featureless unity, being conceived at the same time as the ground of the infinite multiplicity of Spinoza's diverse modes.

But Spinoza's ethics are in the grand manner. His goal, the discovery of the good for man which "is neither trivial nor fleeting, yet open to all," is pursued with unflagging

logic, and pursuing it, he lets fall a number of incidental aphorisms and maxims which entitle him to a place among the greater moralists. Spinoza is not only a logician, he is an artist, and though for us there is nothing particularly novel in his reflections, there is dignity of sentiment and beauty of expression, so that criticism of the philosopher is stilled in admiration of the sage.

Both philosophers exhibit the virtues and vices of Rationalism. Their methods are pre-eminently those of the philosophic study rather than of the experimental laboratory. They believed that the truth about the universe, like the truth about mathematics, could be reached by the mere process of reasoning from self-evident premises. Provided that you reasoned well enough, then, they thought, your conclusions must be true. And if, on going to look at the universe, you found things there which contradicted your conclusions, it was easy enough to pronounce them illusory, and then produce a new chain of reasoning to show how the illusion arose. God, said Leibniz, is possible if he can be conceived in a way which is not self-contradictory; Leibniz proceeds so to conceive him; God, then, is possible. But there is a tendency for what is possible to become actual. Hence God is. Again, it is impossible to conceive how the monads keep time unless God set them, like clocks, in the first instance. Therefore, God is a necessary presupposition of the truth of Leibniz's philosophy. Therefore, God is necessary; therefore, again God is, and God is perfect.

And pain and evil? Men, said Spinoza, are incurably anthropomorphic; "all the means by which they explain nature are only different sorts of imaginations, and so reveal not the nature of things themselves, but only the constitution of the human imagination." Thus, when we say we dislike anything, or denounce it as evil, we are making a statement not about the thing but about our own imaginative susceptibilities. Therefore evil does not belong to the nature of things. This is magnificent; it is a pity that it does not carry conviction.

C. E. M. JOAD.



OFFERS YOU

INSURANCE
SATISFACTION

REASONABLE RATES.
SIMPLE POLICIES,
EQUITABLE SETTLEMENTS

Branches and Agencies throughout the World.

Chief Administration: 7, Chancery Lane, London,
W.C.2.

12th Thousand. 10/6
BOSTON
UPTON SINCLAIR

Author of "Oil"

"There is something of grandeur in the book. A whole aspect of society is portrayed with the utmost vigour, simplicity, and dramatic brilliance."—*Spectator*.

"A very fine book, one which, for what my own personal experience is worth, drove out of competition, until I finished it, all the other new books which awaited attention."—Edward Shanks in *The London Mercury*.

"What a masterly picture it is! How skilfully are its threads held together, how forcefully are its consequences displayed!"—Gerald Gould in *The Observer*.

"Through over 700 closely printed pages he handles his material with the utmost ability, and creates as the end draws nearer a gathering and painful intensity."—*Times (Lit. Sup.)*.

4th Edition
CHASTITY

A NOVEL BY
JOAN CONQUEST

Author of "DESERT LOVE"

NUMBER 56

CATULLE MENDES

Translated by Mrs. P. Mégroz

UP NORTH

CAPT. T. LUND

Author of "Weston of the R.N.W. Mounted Police."

LOVERS & LUGGERS
GURNEY SLADE

"This delightful and deliciously irresponsible tale."—*Times*.

T. WERNER LAURIE, Ltd., WATER LANE, LONDON

LAURIE'S
LIST



READY TO-DAY



**THE
GUILLOTINE
AND ITS SERVANTS**

by G. Lenotre

Author of "Robespierre's Rise and Fall," etc.

In one large handsome volume, illustrated, 21s. net.

In this study M. Lenotre turns his eyes away for the moment from the great actors and great victims of the French Revolution to inquire into the obscure life of "the necessary man," as the executioner was called. An outstanding feature of the book is the long chapter on the family of Sanson, the world's most famous executioner.

**AMONG THE FOREST
DWARFS OF MALAYA**

by Paul Schebesta

One volume, with about 140 illustrations and a map, 21s. net.

The account of an expedition of investigation made by the author among the Semang—the dwarf tribes which are fast dying out, and which inhabit the forest-covered interior of the Malay Peninsula. Accompanied only by a native servant, the author wandered in the forests, sharing the life of these nomadic peoples. He gives a vivid impression of life in the depths of the overwhelming jungle, and speaks authoritatively of the customs and general mode of life of its inhabitants.

Daily Mirror: "Curiously interesting travel book."



Send Post Card for Spring List No. 48.

HUTCHINSON

& Co. (Publishers) Ltd., Paternoster Row, E.C.4.
Also Publishers of HUTCHINSON'S MAGAZINE
and WOMAN. 1/- each Monthly.



MYSTERY!!

- a secret blend
of rare tobaccos!

LAMBERT & BUTLER'S

WAVERLEY
MIXTURE

ORIGINAL 10s^d PER SCOTT BLEND 10s^d PER

Mixed by The Imperial Tobacco Company of Great Britain and Ireland, Ltd.

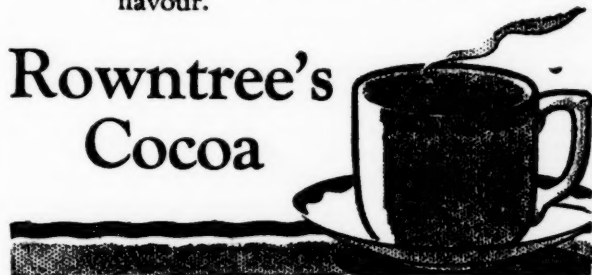


It
warms
and
cheers

A cup of Rowntree's Cocoa at breakfast is as welcome as the morning sunshine—and you can enjoy it every morning.

Rowntree's Cocoa is so warming and nutritious. Children like its delicious flavour.

**Rowntree's
Cocoa**



DARLEY AS POET AND CRITIC

The Life and Letters of George Darley, Poet and Critic. By CLAUDE COLLEER ABBOT. (Milford. 16s.)

THE vogue for biography and letters shows as yet no sign of waning; and while we may lament that this preoccupation with history may somewhat blind our generation to the importance of other problems, and even of the inference to be drawn from the fact, we may congratulate ourselves on the trustworthiness of at least some recorders, who have also borne their critical duties in mind. Among these Mr. Abbot inspires confidence; he clearly appreciates the need for an æsthetic and literary, rather than a domestic, treatment of writers' lives, and knows the art of being copious and at the same time strictly pertinent.

It is difficult to revive with fairness a minor poet, especially one with such a proclivity to lapses from sweetness into silliness, and with so shoddy a taste in tushery (not, alas! unique in its time) as Darley had; but Darley had enough of virtue to make him worth while, and Mr. Abbot has tactfully rescued him from the limbo of the piping bullfinches, with a minimum of that overpraise which is a legitimate implement in the trade of the resurrectionist. He is perfectly just when he says of "Thomas à Becket," "its merits can be realized in part by reading it after encountering the mediocrities of Tennyson's 'Becket'"; but not even Mr. Abbot shall convince me that Dwerger is less tiresome than Gilbert Scott's Gothic, though the significance of this character, as a fruit of the Websterian spirit in him, which conflicted with his equally native sweetness and lightness—to pun—must be admitted. Indeed, more could perhaps have been made of this most evident dualism, this inner variance, which might help to account for the very collapses which Mr. Abbot correctly notes and partly diagnoses. To say, as his biographer does, that Darley was at odds with his age, is scarcely enough, since we may expect that a man whose intellectual difficulties remained thus unadjusted would be at odds with any age.

The best of many sound things in the book is the author's valuable appreciation of Darley as an art critic and aesthetician; it is here, we feel, that restoration to eminence is truly requisite. He was not merely a corrective to Hazlitt; he stoutly upheld Claude and sanity in art in the face of Ruskin's temerities; and it was to the credit both of himself and the *ATHENÆUM* that his protest appeared—though we must allow for some extravagance of language—against landscape portraiture by "geologic . . . dendrologic, meteorologic, and doubtless entomologic, ichthyologic, and every kind of physiologic painter." This is good, hard hitting at the new pseudo-scientific notions; he definitely sided (*pace* Mr. Abbot) with the old, much repeated precepts of Dufresnoy, when he admired the ancient landscapists for neglecting particular traits, and giving only general features. The voice of Darley has indeed prevailed, among our modern painters, over that of Ruskin; but because he did not cut a figure and roar like his opponent, they, and we, are apt to forget that the voice was his; Ruskin may be recultivated wherever the W.E.A. are gathered together, but Darley, had it not been for Mr. Abbot's good offices, might still have remained for many "the *ATHENÆUM* critic." Instead of the roar and the gesture, he offered us his "negative and sceptical voice"; if he had not Ruskin's flamboyant faith, he had something better—a cool judgment and an æsthetic which, in spite of the rather high-flown language in which he tends to veil it, leads us to the now revived and always refreshing principle of stability. Lastly, we are to remember that he pioneered art-theory through rough country; "he was writing . . . when few in England could discuss art with authority . . . to an audience more than usually apathetic, if not ignorant." He faced a "Brummagem" culture, accepted by a "stunt"-loving populace; but, unlike Ruskin, he had no sense of the "stunt," and so had less success as an evangelist.

We should be grateful for the reminder that some good critical work was done in the thirties and forties, and that Darley made a distinctly efficient watchdog for the Muses' temple. "He loathed shams," says Mr. Abbot, and "he held fiercely to the truth . . .", though truth's rhyme and reason sometimes escaped him; thus, he gallantly attacked

Byron, yet the false premiss, "all Italianate is tawdry," damaged a worthy cause. But whatever may be the reader's camp in such a controversy, he must come the wiser from so loving a piece of scholarship as this.

SHERARD VINES.

THE WARTON LECTURE

Collins. By H. W. GARROD. (Clarendon Press. 5s.)

THIS short study of Collins, the annual Warton lecture of the British Academy for 1928, commemorates the bicentenary of Thomas Warton, the younger, formerly Professor of Poetry at Oxford, a position held until recently by Professor Garrod. In memorial lectures of this kind (the Harveian Oration at the Royal College of Physicians is another example), it is difficult to find something new to say every year about the man it commemorates. Professor Garrod, however, has managed to extricate himself successfully by using the Wartons as a peg on which to hang his remarks about their friend Collins, and in overcoming this primary difficulty he shows much professorial skill; it is regrettable that this skill should be absent from the lecture itself. Rightly or wrongly, we cannot help connecting his failure with his position as Professor of Poetry. What exactly, one wonders, are the duties and responsibilities of his post? Undoubtedly they are explained in the statutes of the University; and yet we cannot refrain from speculating on the aims and objects of this anomalous "Chair." Clearly, the holder need not be a poet; history establishes that fact. But whether it is his duty to encourage, or compel, or even forbid undergraduates to write poetry, or simply to teach them how others have done it, are difficult questions. Again, it may be that Poetry, like the Printed Books in the British Museum, needs a Keeper. In the end, one is inclined to regard the Professor of Poetry as the official saviour of a lost cause.

It is somewhat in this style that Professor Garrod treats his subject. His essay is partly an apology for Collins, that he is not a better poet, partly an apology for himself, that Collins might be considered a better poet if only he was more competent to find reasons to prove it. It is true that the non-committal attitude in a lecturer is best suited to an audience of his peers, who might take offence at a very dogmatic statement of opinion, and it is usually more agreeable to have the pill that is going to purge us of preconceived notions sweetened with "Perhaps" and "It seems." But this cautious attitude can end by being extremely irritating, for affected bewilderment is often more maddening than genuine stupidity. Professor Garrod's wavering analysis of Collins is irritating because he will only timidly employ the sensibility and wide reading that he certainly possesses.

Two points of textual criticism must be mentioned. Of the first line of the "Epoë" in the "Ode to Liberty," Professor Garrod remarks: "here, as so often, I am perplexed where no one else is." The first four lines run as follows:—

"Yet ev'n, where'er the least appear'd,
Th' admiring World thy Hand rever'd;
Still 'midst the scatter'd States around
Some remnants of Her Strength were found."

"Thy Hand" (line 2) is the hand of Liberty; "Her Strength" (line 4), the strength of Rome, scattered after the incursion of the "Northern Sons of Spoil." Professor Garrod can find no meaning in "where'er the least appear'd," and suggests "She (*i.e.*, Rome) least appear'd." Surely it is perfectly obvious that "the least" refers back to the last line of the Strophe, which describes how the "blended Work of Strength and Grace"

"(With) many a bar'b'rous Yell, to thousand Fragments broke." By "the least," therefore, is meant "the least of the thousand fragments," and just as in the "scatter'd States," some "remnants" of Rome's "Strength" were found, so in the least of the "thousand fragments," the "Hand" of Liberty was apparent. The other point occurs in "The Passions" (line 80 *et seq.*)

"Last came Joy's Ecstatic Trial . . . 80
First to the lively Pipe his Hand address'd. 82

TOURS, WHERE TO STAY, &c.

REFORMED INNS.

ASK FOR DESCRIPTIVE LIST (gratis) of 170 INNS AND HOTELS managed by the PEOPLE'S REFRESHMENT HOUSE ASSOCIATION, LTD.

P.R.H.A., Ltd., St. George's House, 193, Regent St., W.1.

LONGSHAW—THE NEW CONFERENCE HOSTEL. Situated on National Trust property on beautiful Derbyshire Moors.—Apply Holiday Fellowship, Ltd., "Highfield," London, N.W.11.

EDUCATIONAL.

BEDFORD PHYSICAL TRAINING COLLEGE.

Principal: Miss STANSFELD.

Students are trained in this College to become Teachers of Gymnastics, Games, &c. Fees, £165 per year. For particulars, apply The Secretary, 57, Lansdowne Road, Bedford.

DR. WILLIAMS' SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, DOLGELLEY.—For Prospectus apply to the Headmistress.

CHURCH EDUCATION CORPORATION, Uplands School, St. Leonards-on-Sea.—An open scholarship of £50 p.a. is offered for competition to girls over 12 and under 14 on July 31st, 1929. Last day of entry March 23rd. Examination early in May.—Apply to the Head Mistress.

PUBLIC NOTICES, LECTURES, ETC.

Free Lecture.

All Welcome.

VICTORIA HALL

Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1.

SUNDAY, 17th FEBRUARY, 8.15 p.m. sharp

THE CULTURE OF CONCENTRATION

What is concentration? Its relation to self-examination and its power to mould character and build capacity will be explained.

UNITED LODGE OF THEOSOPHISTS

FREE THOUGHT AND FREE SPEECH IN RELIGION.—The Free Religious Movement (towards World-religion and World-brotherhood) meets in Lindsey Hall, The Mall, Notting Hill Gate, on Sunday Mornings at 11. Addresses by the Leader, Walter Walsh, D.D.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), Friends House, Euston Road. Sunday, February 17th, at 6.30. "Jesus and Reality." Speaker: Eric Hayman, M.A.

OLD WESTMINSTER.—Four Lectures at Westminster School (Large Hall); entrance Dean's Yard. Tuesdays, February 19th, 26th, March 5th, 12th, at 5.30. First Lecture: "Its Churches." Tickets from Westminster Housing Association, 32, Charing Cross, or at the door, 5s. 6d., 3s. 6d., 2s.

If you find any difficulty in obtaining the NATION and ATHENÆUM locally, you should order it to be supplied by post from this office.

Inland and Abroad: 3 months 7/6; 6 months 15/-; 12 months £1 10s.

ORDER FORM.

To The Manager, "The Nation and Athenæum," 38, Great James Street, Bedford Row, W.C.1.

Please send me "The Nation and Athenæum" by post weekly. I enclose cheque or Postal Order for months.

NAME

ADDRESS

APPOINTMENTS VACANT & WANTED.

RHODES UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, GRAHAMSTOWN.
(University of South Africa.)

SENIOR LECTURER IN PSYCHOLOGY.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the post of Senior Lecturer to take charge of the Department of Psychology. Appointment probationary for first two years.

Salary: £450 per annum, rising by annual increments of £25 to £650 per annum.

Transport: £40 will be allowed towards passage expenses, subject to a proportionate refund in the event of termination of the engagement within three years from the date of assumption of duty.

Duties: The successful applicant will be required to assume duty on July 1st, 1929.

Applications, together with copies of testimonials (all in triplicate) should reach the Secretary, Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2 (from whom forms of application and further particulars may be obtained) not later than APRIL 1st, 1929.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF LONDON.

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL requires instructors in the undermentioned subjects for appointment to the panels of staff eligible for employment as required in evening institutes: (1) Anthropology and Comparative Religions (22s.); (2) Appreciation of (a) Architecture, (b) Art (22s.); (3) Astronomy (22s.); (4) Citizenship, Senior (22s.); (5) Dramatic Literature and Elocution (senior, 16s., junior, 11s.); (6) Economics (22s.); (7) English (senior, 16s., junior, 11s.); (8) History of London (22s.); (9) Languages (a) French, German, Hebrew, Italian and Spanish, advanced and causerie (22s.), (b) Esperanto (senior, 16s.); (10) Literature (senior, 16s., junior, 11s.); (11) Local Government, History of (22s.); (12) Philosophy and Ethics (22s.); (13) Psychology (22s.); (14) Public Administration (22s.).

The above rates of pay are for two hours' teaching. Appointment to a panel is no guarantee of employment, and it is unlikely that fresh vacancies will arise before September next.

Apply Education Officer (T.7), The County Hall, S.E.1 (stamped addressed foolscap envelope necessary) for Form T.7/40, to be returned by March 4th, 1929. Canvassing disqualifies.

MONTAGU H. COX,

Clerk of the London County Council.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The Senate invite applications for the University Chair of History, tenable at Westfield College. Salary, £1,000 a year. Applications (12 copies) must be received not later than first post on February 19th, 1929, by the Academic Registrar, University of London, S.W.7, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

CITY OF LEEDS PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the post of Assistant Reference Librarian, Grade C4, commencing salary £265 with scale increments to £350 per annum. Applicants must hold at least four certificates of the Library Association and have had a thorough Reference Library experience. Applications, on forms to be obtained from the undersigned, must be received not later than February 25th, 1929. The person appointed will be required to pass a Medical Examination and to contribute to the Superannuation Fund established by the Corporation under the Local Government and other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922.

R. J. GORDON, City Librarian.

Reference Library, Leeds.

MISCELLANEOUS.

EARN MONEY AT HOME!

You can earn money at home in whole or spare time writing Show Cards for us. No canvassing. We train you by post by our new simple method and furnish the Outfit Free. We supply both men and women with steady work at home, no matter where you live, and pay you cash for all work completed each week, under our legal guarantee. Full particulars and booklet free. Show Card Service, Hitchin. Write at once or call.

TIRED OF GASPERS? Try BIZIM Cigarettes! Real, pure Turkish tobaccos matured naturally. Delight of the Connoisseur. Only 9d. 6d. per 100, plain or cork-tipped. Postage extra, 8d. for 100, 6d. 80d. 500. 1,000 post free for 57s. 6d. Send remittance to manufacturers, J. J. FREEMAN & CO., LTD., 80, PICCADILLY, W.1.

TIRED OF GASPERS? Try Freeman's Rhodesian Cigarettes. Made from selected Rhodesian Leaf, fully matured and carefully blended. A smooth, sweet smoke. 7s. 9d. per 100, postage 8d. extra; 88s. for 500, postage 9d.; 75s. per 1,000, post free. Send remittance to manufacturers, J. J. FREEMAN & CO., LTD., 80, PICCADILLY.

REAL HARRIS HOMESPUNS. Any length cut. Patterns free. —James Street Tweed Depot, 158, Stornoway, N.B.

FINEST ENGLISH HONEY, GUARANTEED PURE, 10/9 per 7-lb. tin. Carriage paid. Hodgkinson, St. Michael's, Tenterden, Kent.

READERS of THE NATION AND ATHENÆUM are invited to use the classified advertisement columns of that Journal for the purpose of making known their wants. Small prepaid advertisements are charged at the rate of one shilling and sixpence per line per insertion. (A line usually averages about eight words.) An additional charge of 6d. is made for the use of a Box No. Reductions are allowed for a series of insertions. Full particulars will be sent on application to the Advertisement Manager, THE NATION AND ATHENÆUM, 38, Great James Street, Bedford Row, London, W.C.1.

But soon he saw the brisk awak'ning Viol 83
Whose sweet entrancing Voice he lov'd the best. 84
They would have thought who heard the Strain. . . " 85

Professor Garrod supposes a line to be lost between lines 84 and 85, (1) because there is no rhyme for "Strain"; (2) because if "Joy" only "saw" the Viol it would be impossible for anyone to have heard its strains. A line may be lost, but it is more likely that the Ode was written rapidly and carelessly, and that Collins overlooked the absence of rhyme-correspondence. For the same reason he may have been less affected than Professor Garrod by the discrepancy between line 83 and line 85, for his meaning, at all events, is clear. At the same time, we are tempted to suggest that line 83 should be amended thus:—

"But soon he saws the brisk awak'ning Viol."

The image of Joy, having put down his pipe and briskly sawing the viol, is not inappropriate, though we should be content to leave the line as it stands.

ON THE EDITOR'S TABLE

THREE new volumes of Pierre Loti are published, in translation, "Jerusalem," "Madame Prune," and "Morocco" (Werner Laurie, 6s.). The first and last are translated by W. P. Baines, the other by S. R. C. Plimsoll.

A biographical study is the subtitle of "Alexander the Great," by E. Iliff Robson (Cape, 7s. 6d.). Mr. Arnold Lane has written a biography of the founder of Methodism: "John Wesley" (Cassell, 7s. 6d.). "Three Persons," by Sir Andrew Macphail (Murray, 10s. 6d.), contains studies of Sir Henry Wilson, Colonel Lawrence, and Colonel House.

A third edition of Dean Inge's "The Philosophy of Plotinus" (Longmans, 2 vols., 21s.) is published. The book was originally the Gifford Lectures at St. Andrews, 1917-18.

Messrs. A. & C. Black publish a new edition, in one volume, revised and abridged, of "The Science and Philosophy of the Organism," by Hans Driesch (20s.).

The new volume for 1928 of "The English Catalogue of Books," edited by James D. Stewart (Publishers' Circular), is now available. Every book is indexed under both title and author's name.

Both farmers and gardeners will find much useful information in "Agricultural Entomology," by D. H. Robinson and S. G. Jary (Duckworth, 15s.). It gives a scientific description of the insects and their habits, and also methods of combating the pests.

"Toward a Better World" is a volume of sermon addresses by Commander Evangeline Booth of the Salvation Army (Hutchinson, 3s. 6d.).

BOOKS IN BRIEF

The Dictionary of English History. Originally compiled by SIR SIDNEY LOW and F. S. PULLING. Revised and enlarged. (Cassell, 30s.)

"Low and Pulling" is known to all students of English history. It is nearly half a century old and has already undergone three or four partial revisions. The present revision has been drastic, and the dictionary has now been brought up to date. The revising editors are Professor Hearnshaw, Miss Helena Chew, and Mr. A. C. F. Beales.

A Concise Guide to the Town and University of Cambridge. Originally written by J. W. CLARK. (Cambridge: Bowes & Bowes, 1s. 6d.)

This is the ninth edition of an admirable guide to Cambridge. It has been completely revised and brought up to date by Mr. H. C. Hughes. The additions include a section describing places of interest in the neighbourhood of Cambridge.

Kitchen Ranging. By PEARL ADAM. (Cape, 10s. 6d.)

This is a cookery book of a very remarkable kind. It contains recipes of dishes from all over the world and all kinds of interesting information about them. Those who want to eat a dish of guinea-pig and eel (from French Guiana) or the famous bouillabaisse of Marseilles or Omelette Poularde as cooked at Mont St. Michel or Maids of Honour from Richmond in Surrey, must get this book for their kitchens.

AUCTION BRIDGE

By CALIBAN.

"BAD CARD-HOLDERS"

WHAT do you think of the following hands?

♠ A 3 ♥ J 7 6 2 ♦ K Q 5 ♣ 10 9 8 4 (1)
♠ K 8 6 5 3 ♥ Q 9 4 2 ♦ A 7 ♣ J 10 (2)
♠ 8 6 5 4 2 ♥ A 10 7 ♦ Q 9 3 ♣ K J (3)
♠ A 8 4 ♥ Q J 7 6 5 ♦ K 10 2 ♣ Q 9 (4)
♠ 10 4 ♥ K 9 8 7 ♦ J 3 ♣ A 6 5 3 2 (5)

They are not a very good-looking lot, are they? Yet a closer inspection of them will show that the first three are *average* hands (they each contain one Ace, one King, one Queen, and so on), while (4) is a Queen better than the average and (5) is a Queen *worse*. I have set them out with the idea of illustrating what average hands are like. For every hand dealt you which is better than the first three displayed above you can also expect to have dealt you one hand which is worse.

The reason for this demonstration is that I want to argue this point: that many players do not appreciate what a poor-looking affair an average hand is. They regard such holdings as Nos. (1) to (3) with disgust, and will not believe that a player, who has held, in a rubber of five deals, the five hands set out above, has had his fair share of the luck. They forget, in short, that there are four players and only four Aces and four Kings in the pack, and that therefore they cannot expect to average more than *one* Ace and *one* King a time.

I witnessed an amusing instance of this the other day. The call was One No-Trump; the Dummy, a player who invariably dwells upon the badness of his hands. This time, as he put down his cards, he observed (in all seriousness), "Better than my usual, partner." I could not help making a mental note of them:—

♠ Q 7 ♥ A Q 9 4 ♦ K Q 10 8 ♣ K J 10

This episode calls for no comment.

The player in question is a member of the biggest fraternity in the world of Bridge: the great indestructible army of Bad Card-Holders. Every reader of this article knows them. They are ubiquitous; in the clubs, in one's own home, wherever one dines out, platoons and companies of this heroic phalanx can be heard comparing notes and narrating their misfortunes. "I've hardly seen an Ace for weeks. . . ." "My wife, of course, is a *shocking* card-holder. . . ." "And you know, partner, what *my* cards are. . . ." When I was younger I used to argue with these unfortunates; I had an idea I could convince them that they were no worse off than the rest of us. But I never do so now; it is so much less trouble to be sympathetic. For with all my arguments (and as arguments go they were good ones) I never made a convert. The army of Bad Card-Holders never dies.

Yet it is interesting to seek for an explanation of this phenomenon. Why are there so many Bad Card-Holders about? The obvious explanation is that the Bad Card-Holders are the bad players, but I do not think this is the right one; some of them have a very good card-sense indeed. My own theory (confirmed, for what it is worth, by personal experience) is that the Bad Card-Holders are bad *callers*—the class of bad callers, moreover, whom it is most difficult to bring to book, because their sins so seldom find them out. *They are most of them chronic under-callers.* It is in support of this explanation that I set out some average hands at the beginning of this article. To the Bad Card-Holder, average hands are "rotten" hands; while hands on which a good player would call No Trumps, or would support a partner's suit, are looked upon as purely defensive in character. The result is that opportunity after opportunity of *attack* is thrown away, and Bridge is a game in which the initiative means so much that the persistent neglect of attacking chances is bound to bring disaster.

This point was significantly brought home to me by a remark dropped by a Bad Card-Holder after an unsuccessful evening's play. "Isn't it rotten luck?" he groaned, "I've lost every rubber, *yet I haven't gone down on a call the whole evening*. That just shows how bad the cards I hold are." In fact, of course, it does not show anything of the sort. It merely illustrates, from the experience of one player during one evening, what is surely an elementary truth: that the player who seldom goes down on a call had better not play for money, for he will find Bridge a very expensive pastime.

But (it may be objected) is there not a simpler explana-

COMPANY MEETING.

THE GAS LIGHT & COKE COMPANY.

The General Meeting of The Gas Light and Coke Company was held at the Chief Office on February 8th. Sir David Milne-Watson, LL.D., D.L. (the Governor), presided. The Report and Accounts were taken as read. The Chairman said:—

You will notice that we have raised a further £2,000,000 of 5 per cent. Redeemable Debenture Stock. We received the excellent price of £99 for each £100 of Stock—a great testimony to the Company's reputation in the world of finance.

EXPENDITURE ON EXPANSION OF BUSINESS

The expenditure of capital amounted to £618,000, of which £523,000 was on new mains, meters and stoves, rendered necessary owing to our desire to get new business and to furnish an ample supply in districts where building developments are taking place. A credit of £96,000 from the amount written off plant and from depreciation of stoves leaves a net capital expenditure of £522,000.

SAVINGS ON REVENUE ACCOUNT

The Company has saved large sums of money on coal and oil. The reduction in coal is due to the fact that in 1927 we were still hampered with high prices as an aftermath of the coal stoppage. The reduction in oil is due to the lower prices that have ruled during the past year. There has been a saving under these two headings of over £1,400,000. There has also been a large decrease under the heading of repairs and renewals of meters. This is not due to any slackening off in the Company's policy of repairing and renewing meters, but to the fact that a large part of the expenditure in 1927 is not recurrent.

BENEFIT TO CONSUMER AND SHAREHOLDER

Owing to the reduced price of gas the amount charged our customers has fallen by over £1,300,000. This will be regarded with great satisfaction by consumers and shareholders alike, as with the reduction in the price of gas we were enabled to give a very substantial benefit to the consumers and at the same time declare a higher dividend.

RESIDUALS

With regard to residuals, there has been a fall in prices all round—only to be expected in view of the reductions in the price of coal. A revenue of over £2,000,000 from Residuals must in the circumstances be considered very satisfactory.

As I have said, the reduction in the price of gas has enabled us to declare a higher dividend. A dividend for June was paid at the rate of £5 10s. per cent. per annum, and now we are in a position to recommend a dividend at the rate of £5 12s. per cent. per annum, the full amount permissible with the price of gas at 8.6d. per therm.

To sum up the result of the trading for the year:—

AN INCREASED CARRY-FORWARD

A credit balance of £1,853,000 has been transferred from Revenue to Profit and Loss as against £1,737,000 last year. This, after the interest on borrowed money and the dividends for the June half-year have been debited, together with a contribution of £50,000 to Special Purposes, leaves £830,000 from which to pay the charges for the December half-year. This enables us to declare the usual dividends on the Preference Maximum Stocks and a dividend at the rate of £5 12s. per cent. per annum on the Ordinary Stock. These dividends, together with £20,000 to Redemption Fund, will absorb £671,000, and leave £159,000 to be carried forward—an increase of £37,000 on the amount brought forward.

A SOUND FINANCIAL POSITION

Looking at the Company's position generally, we have made very satisfactory progress during the past year, and there never was a time in its history when its financial position was in a sounder condition.

So far as increase in business is concerned, 1 per cent. may not seem very large so far as percentages go, but, when you take into consideration the size and age of the Company, and the intense competition from our younger rivals—electricity and oil—I think it may be regarded as very satisfactory. When it is realized that an increase of 1 per cent. in the Company's total business means, roughly, 500 million cubic feet of gas, involving the use of 40,000 tons of coal, and is equal to the supply for a whole year of a moderate-sized town, there is no reason to be dissatisfied.

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON GAS OUTPUT—RECENT RECORDS

A critic, on referring to the Capital Account, may say that we have spent a large amount to get an increase of this kind. I should like to remind you that in the nature of our business we are particularly dependent on the weather, and in 1928 we had a remarkably fine summer and an extremely mild autumn and early winter, conditions distinctly against the sale of gas. It is well to remember that our object is first to secure consumers and then to see that their premises are fitted up with suitable apparatus, so that when weather conditions are suitable the apparatus is there to enable us to reap the benefit.

Our recent experience has shown that we have been amply rewarded for this policy, for in the severe weather during last month we have had a record output which would not have been obtained had we not pushed the sale and hire of apparatus. The Board also consider that their policy with regard to new showrooms has been amply justified. The Showrooms in this building and our new showrooms at Church Street, Kensington; Seven Sisters Road; Kilburn; Finchley Road; &c., have fully justified the large expenditure on them. They have had the effect of making the public realize that modern gas appliances, which are eminently efficient and at the same time artistic, can be employed in houses however beautiful the decorations may be, thereby securing a good class of business.

MODERNIZING THE WORKS

The Company has pursued its policy of putting in modern plant at all its Works whenever an opportunity has arisen. Within the last few years several of the Works have been undergoing a process of renewal in order that the largest methods of carbonization might be brought into use, and the reduction in the cost of manufacture has been noteworthy.

As I have told you before, we have found it very advantageous to own our own ships, and recently we have ordered three more to run to our up-river stations, where the economy effected by avoiding the unloading of coal lower down the river and barging it up has been very material.

LOW-TEMPERATURE CARBONIZATION—A NEW SMOKELESS FUEL

On the last occasion I told you that the Company, at the request of the Government, was putting up a Low Temperature Carbonization plant at Richmond. This is now approaching completion and within a few days we hope to be in a position to supply a smokeless fuel named "Gloco." Very many interesting questions arise out of Low Temperature Carbonization, especially with regard to residuals. The Company is carrying out investigation and research with a view to finding a new use for the tar and its constituents produced from this method of carbonization.

IMPORTANT RESEARCH WORK

In the summer we opened a new central laboratory at our Fulham Works. Sir Richard Threlfell, Chairman of the Fuel Research Board, was kind enough to come and open this Laboratory, when he made a very interesting speech on the value of research. We were never more convinced than at the present time of the necessity for research, and we have now working for us a highly efficient staff of Chemists, who are studying the numerous problems connected with our work. Our central Laboratory, working in conjunction with a full-scale experimental plant, has as its especial object fundamental research into the problems of our industry as apart from routine laboratory work. There are many problems connected with the nature and carbonization of coal, and it is only right that a Company such as ours should take its part in this research work on coal, gas, and residuals which has such an important bearing at the present time on the welfare of the country.

GAS MAKING BY COKE OVENS

We are also considering the question of the installation of Coke Ovens at Beckton. We have received tenders for this work and are now considering them. This shows that we have no prejudice against coke ovens forming part of a gas works.

It has been assumed by a great number of people that there is antagonism between the Gas Industry and the Coke Oven Industry. Nothing is really further from the case, because we regard ourselves as having shown the way to the by-product Coke Oven Industry. When the Coke Oven Industry was merely supplying coke for foundry purposes there was perhaps little connection between the two; but since the recovery of by-products there has naturally been greater community of interest. Both industries are part and parcel of one great industry, namely, that of the carbonization of coal. They should try to work together, bearing in mind the special object of each industry, and so help to solve some of the great difficulties of the country, namely, the iron, steel, and coal problems. If both industries approached this question in a friendly manner, trying to understand one another's difficulties and not trying to "down" each other, a great deal of good would come to both industries and also to the country generally.

THE NATIONAL ASPECT OF THE GAS INDUSTRY: OBSOLETE LEGISLATION

There never was a time probably when greater prominence was given to the national aspect of the Gas Industry than at the present moment. As you know, the Government appointed a National Fuel and Power Committee, of which I had the honour to be a member, and that Committee has made a series of recommendations which are of great importance to the industry.

The general legislative provisions under which we work date back as far as 1847, and in many respects are quite out of date. We are hampered as an industry by inadequate and old-fashioned methods of raising capital, which do not apply to our younger rivals; we are handicapped with limitations in the handling of our residuals; and we are limited with regard to working with allied industries. There are many other minor disadvantages under which we labour. The industry feels that it has a real grievance, and this has been fully recognized in

tion of Bad Card-Holding—that there really are Bad Card-Holders? What about the element of luck? My reply is that the element of luck, in this sense, simply does not enter into it. Over an evening's play—certainly; over a week's play—perhaps; over a year's play—very seldom indeed. The phenomena of all card games are governed by the laws of probability, which are inexorable, and the laws of probability are weighted so heavily against the Bad Card-Holder as to throw on him the whole onus of proof when he declares himself to be unlucky. And I have not yet met a case in which that proof was forthcoming. There are any number of players who believe themselves to be unlucky, and who, for that very reason, acquire a "defeatist" complex which affects their play; it leads them into all manner of iniquities of which under-calling is the chief. If however they wish to rid themselves of this complex they can do so very easily—by keeping a record of the next thousand hands they hold and analyzing them. The results will astonish them and (unless their outlook is hypochondriac) will do much to cheer them up. I should be glad to hear from any players (whether Bad Card-Holders or otherwise) who have made experiments along these lines.

NEW GRAMOPHONE RECORDS

H.M.V. RECORDS

A MAGNIFICENT vocal record is by the famous tenor Melchior, who sings "O Elsa, nur ein Jahr an deiner Seite" and "Höchstes vertrau'n hast du mir schon zu danken," from "Lohengrin" (D1505. 6s. 6d.). Just as good in its very different, Italian way is "Era la notte" and "Eri tu . . .", from Verdi's "Otello," sung by Apollo Granforte, baritone (DB937. 8s. 6d.). An extremely interesting orchestral record is Charbrier's Rhapsody "España," played very well by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (10-in. record. E522. 4s. 6d.), a piece which is not heard as often perhaps as it deserves. Bach's well-known "Air on G String"—did it not even figure in "This Year of Grace"?—and the still better-known Londonderry Air are played by the New Symphony Orchestra (B2913. 3s.).

Kreisler gives a characteristic performance of Albeniz's "Tango" and De Falla's "Danse Espagnole" (DA1009. 6s.). Another admirable instrumental record is Chopin's Studies, Op. 25, Nos. 1, 2, 11, and 12, played by Wilhelm Backhaus (12-in. record. DB1178. 8s. 6d.). There is again a record of Mr. Cyril Scott playing as pianoforte solos his own compositions, "Lotus Land" and "Souvenir de Vienne" (B1894. 3s.).

COLUMBIA RECORDS

THERE are two very good Mozart records this month, both by Columbia: Pianoforte Concerto in G (No. 17), with Dohnanyi playing the piano and also conducting the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra (Four 12-in. records. L2215-8. 6s. 6d. each), and Symphony (No. 34) in C (K. 338), played by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Sir Thomas Beecham (Three 12-in. records. 6s. 6d. each.). The Symphony is the better of the two; it must not be confused with the "Jupiter," which is also in C; it was written eight years before that work, in 1780.

A second album of four records contains six more of the Nocturnes of Chopin played on the piano by Godowsky (L2168-71. 6s. 6d. each.). The most beautiful of all the Nocturnes, that in D flat major, Op. 27, No. 2, is included, and the other five are Op. 15, Nos. 1 and 2; Op. 27, No. 1; Op. 37, No. 1; and Op. 48, No. 2. The tone is exceptionally good for piano records.

Among vocal records the most considerable undertaking has been the recording of "In a Persian Garden," by Liza Lehmann, on five 12-in. records (9598-9602. 4s. 6d. each.). This is the popular "song cycle" from Fitzgerald's "Omar Khayyam," and dates pretty obviously from the English nineties. The singing is in the capable hands, or rather voices of Dora Labbette, Muriel Brunskill, Hubert Eisdell, and Harold Williams, and the recording is quite good. The best vocal record is the very beautiful "Where'er you walk," from Handel's "Semele," and "As pants the hart," sung by the boy soprano John Gwilym Griffiths (9615. 4s. 6d.). The Handel song is just a little beyond the powers of a boy singer, however good, but it is a lovely record. Other good vocal records are "I go on my way" and "Lord, God of Abraham," from Mendelssohn's "Elijah," sung by

Rex Palmer, baritone (9588. 4s. 6d.), and "Liebestraum," of Liszt, and "Come, Silver Moon," the eternal Londonderry Air, sung as duets by Dora Labbette and Hubert Eisdell (9612. 4s. 6d.). William Heseltine, tenor, sings two popular melodies, "Come into the garden, Maud," and "My sweet-heart when a boy" (9587. 4s. 6d.).

The Squire Celeste Octet play two universal favourites in "Invitation to the Valse" and Tchaikowsky's "Chant sans parole" (9608. 4s. 6d.). The Milan Symphony Orchestra give a terrific performance of the Grand March from Verdi's "Aida," helped by the Milan chorus (9606. 4s. 6d.).

Among the still lighter records the following deserve mention: "Merrie England," selection, played by Grenadier Guards Band (9607. 4s. 6d.); "I see my love at the window," "Calliope," and "Hear dem bells," Lions Quartette (5170. 3s.); "Nobody knows de trouble I sees" and "Run, Mary, run," negro spirituals, sung by Edna Thomas (5194. 3s.); "I hope I don't meet Molly" and "My rock-a-bye baby," Trix Sisters (5183. 3s.).

BRUNSWICK RECORDS

THE Brunswick have some particularly good records this month, and the technique of the recording is notably good. The magnificent Toccata and Fugue in D minor of Bach is played by Alfred Sittard on the organ of St. Michael's Church, Hamburg (12-in. record. 80039. 6s. 6d.), and is one of the finest organ records which we have heard. An interesting piano record is Chopin's Waltz in A flat major, and the popular E flat major Nocturne, played by Alexander Brailowsky (12-in. record. 80040. 6s. 6d.), interesting because the player makes the Nocturne more meditative and less passionate than many interpreters. Georg Kulenkampff, a German violinist, plays two solos, Brahms's Hungarian Dance, No. 5, and Boccherini's Allegretto (10-in. record. 7006. 4s. 6d.).

Respighi's "Trittico Botticelliano," played by the London Chamber Orchestra under Anthony Bernard, is another interesting record (Two 12-in. records. 30131-2. 6s. 6d. each.). The playing and recording are excellent. The work itself is in three movements based on three famous pictures of Botticelli. It is rather monotonous, but is far more interesting than some of the composer's previous work, e.g., the "Fountains of Rome," which was recently recorded.

The best vocal record is by a boy soprano, Frederick Firth, who sings very well Handel's "O Lord whose mercies" and Bach's "My heart ever faithful" (20074. 4s. 6d.). A very brilliant operatic record in which the recording is exceptionally good is "Ah! si ben mio," from "Il Trovatore," and "O tu che in seno agli angeli," from "La Forza del Destino," sung by Alfred Piccaver (50115. 8s.).

Among the lighter records and dance music the following may be noted: "Buckingham Palace," "In the Fashion," "The Christening," and "Halfway Down," "Growing Up," "Hoppity," "Vespers," all from "When We Were Very Young," sung by Stanley Maxted, tenor (3888-9); "Why?" and "I Wonder," foxtrots, The Clevelanders (3881); "Jubilee Stomp" and "Don't mess around with me," foxtrots, Washingtonians (3878); "Once in a lifetime" and "Blue Shadows," foxtrots, Vincent Lopez (3884); "Roses of Yesterday" and "Where the shy little violets grow," foxtrots, Ben Benri and "King" Solomon (3885). These are all 3s. each.

BOOKS

ALL Books published during the coming Spring, whether reviewed or advertised in this or any other Paper, can be quickly obtained through any Bookshop or Railway Station Bookstall of

W. H. SMITH & SON,

1250 Branches in England & Wales.

Head Office:

STRAND HOUSE, LONDON, W.C.2.
[PARIS] [BRUSSELS]

Continued from Page 699.

the Committee's Main Report, where it is recommended that we should be allowed to adopt more up-to-date methods and to bring ourselves into line with modern practice. I am glad to say that the Government has promised to introduce a Bill giving effect to some of those recommendations. The Industry would have preferred to have a completely new Charter; but we realize that in the last session of a Parliament we could not possibly expect to get a Bill dealing with all our grievances. We therefore welcome, as a first step, the Bill which the Government propose to introduce, hoping and believing that it will not be long before we obtain, whatever Government may happen to be in power, a further relief from the trammels which hinder us. It is not dividends we are after. What we want is freedom to get new business and to compete on modern lines with our rivals who are not subject to so many restrictions as we are.

GOOD RELATIONS WITH WORKERS

With regard to labour matters, I am glad to say that we have had no difficulties during the past year. I cannot imagine any Company having a more loyal and faithful body of workers than this Company has. There is a definite feeling of enthusiasm for the Company among those who work for it, and this is due to a great extent to the co-partnership or family spirit which permeates the whole Company. I cannot pass from this subject without saying how deeply touched I was when the many thousands of Co-partners of the Company decided last year to subscribe and present me with my portrait and my wife with a very beautiful tea service. We were deeply touched by this expression of their goodwill, and it was one of the proudest moments of my life when the portrait by Sir William Orpen, R.A., was presented to me.

THE HOLBORN EXPLOSION

The last days of 1928 were clouded over by the explosion in the Post Office tube in Holborn. As the matter is now being inquired into by a Commission, it would be out of place for me to make any remarks on this occurrence. The staff of the Company, both officers and men, worked splendidly night and day during the anxious time that followed the explosion, and everything was done to mitigate the inconvenience and trouble caused in the district.

With regard to the staff, I have nothing but praise for both officers and workmen for the way they have carried out their duties, and to them is due the Directors' thanks for their efforts.

It would be invidious to mention any particular persons by name, but, when referring to the staff, I would like to say that we have appointed Mr. R. W. Foot, General Manager of the Company. Mr. Foot has been acting as Assistant General Manager for some years, and has fully earned the title of General Manager.

THE INDUSTRIAL SITUATION

At our meeting last year, I referred to the question of co-operation between Capital and Labour, and no doubt you have seen in the papers a good deal with regard to this matter. It is premature to say what will be the outcome of the meetings that have taken place, but I can confidently say that, so far, nothing but good has resulted; and I sincerely hope that when matters have been further discussed, we shall enter on a period of better understanding between the two parties chiefly responsible for the success of Industry.

There never was a time when it was more necessary that the two sides should understand one another, and anything which brings employers and employed in closer touch with one another is good. Frank discussion and friendly meetings will do a great deal to help solve the difficult questions which lie before British Industry before it can once more take its old place in the world's economic position.

British Industry has gone through a very trying time, and, though we are not out of the wood, I think there is no use in despairing or in constantly belittling what has been done by this country from an industrial point of view.

The Report and Accounts were adopted.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Notice was then read convening an extraordinary meeting, for the purpose of considering the Bill now before Parliament.

The Chairman said: The main object of the Bill is the acquisition of two more Undertakings. Amalgamation has been the policy of this Company for many years, and it is a policy that has been in every way justified. As a result we are able not only to supply gas more cheaply in the new areas, but, by the advantage we possess in having at our command greater facilities for the provisions of new capital, it is possible to develop business more rapidly in these outlying areas than would have otherwise been the case. In return, the older districts belonging to the Company reap such advantage as must follow from an extension of the Company's business with regard to the sale of gas.

The results of the provisions in the Bill as to price will be very satisfactory to the new districts. The graduated concession in price, amounting in all to no less than 3d. per therm, means that the consumers in these areas may look forward for some time to come to a steady reduction in the price of gas as a result of the amalgamation. After this reduction has been made, there will remain a small differential price in both of the new areas, which their geographical position fully justifies.

A resolution approving the Bill was adopted.

COMPANY MEETING.

WHITTAKER AUTOMATIC LOOMS, LIMITED.

The statutory meeting of Whittaker Automatic Looms, Ltd., was held last Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Mr. Condie Sandeman, K.C. (the chairman), said that the company was formed to take over a going concern which had approximately 3,000 automatic loom attachments in almost every country where weaving was a serious industry. Up to the date of the report the company had received orders for over 2,000 attachments, approximately 1,700 for England, and many repeat orders had been received, showing that satisfaction was being given. The attachments were working equally as well for linen and woollen goods as in the cotton trade, and he did not think it possible to exaggerate the importance of the Whittaker Automatic Loom attachment, and the enormous potential market which it enjoyed. Taking the three industries he had mentioned, any one of them could give the company sufficient business more than to justify the original profit estimate of the prospectus.

There was no question, in the opinion of the textile industries—the textile machine manufacturers, and the leaders of the great related Trade Unions—that automatic weaving was essential. The United States of America was almost completely equipped with automatic looms, the high cost of labour in America rendering them inevitable. The fitting of automatic looms throughout our own great cotton industry must result in Lancashire regaining her relative position, and substantially the same applied to the woollen, linen, and artificial silk industries.

The Whittaker loom attachment was a device of national importance; it could be applied to existing looms of any make. It put in the hands of manufacturers effective means of overcoming the increasing shortage of skilled weavers, and enabled them to reduce their costs of weaving to a greater extent than any other weaving invention for the last fifty years, and one of its chief advantages was the simplicity of the mechanism and the small alterations required. The reduction in weaving costs was so considerable that the device had already received the serious consideration of the whole of the textile manufacturing industry of the world. As to price, there was no effective competitor, because the attachment fitted to an existing loom resulted in an automatic loom doing everything achieved by the latest American automatic looms at a cost within the reach of any manufacturer in this country.

Unburdened Life Assurance

Of all forms of life assurance none is so advantageous to policy-holders as mutual assurance, and A.M.P. Mutual Assurance in particular. Being mutual, the A.M.P. has no shareholders. All surplus is divided yearly among its members.

The largest and most prosperous British Mutual Life Office, the A.M.P. offers lower premiums, larger bonuses, and many other advantages due to able and economical administration.

EVERY YEAR A BONUS YEAR

Assets £47,000,000. Annual Income £10,000,000
New ordinary business for 1927 £15,397,528. Cash Surplus (Ordinary Department) divided for one year (1927) £2,895,454.

Please write for Prospectus.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY

Established in Australia in 1849.

London Office: ROBERT THODEY, F.I.A.,
73-76, King William St., E.C.4. Manager for the United Kingdom.

LITERARY.

ALL SHOULD READ, "The Past and Future Developments of Electricity and its bearing on World Peace." By H. G. Massingham. Just published by Hutchinson's, London. At all Booksellers, 6d.

BOOKPLATES.—Original exclusive designs from 2 gns.—Write OSBORNES, Artist-Engravers, 27, Eastcastle Street, London, W.1.

"THE RELIGION OF A UNITARIAN." Booklets Free.—Apply Miss Barmby, Mount Pleasant, Sidmouth.

TYPEWRITING, 10d. per 1,000; prompt and careful work.—Weatherley, 5, The Close, Thornhill Park, Bitterne, Southampton.

A CALL TO THE NATIONS.—You must read "The Royal Religion" for a healthy, peaceful, progressive and spiritual humanity. Post paid, 1s. 6d. Secretary, Hatov Press, 77, Blenheim Crescent, Ladbroke Grove, London, W.11.

FINANCIAL SECTION

THE WEEK IN THE CITY

BANK RATE EFFECTS—COURTAULDS—SHARE "TIPPING"—IMPERIAL FINANCE

THE Stock Exchange usually anticipates a rise in Bank rate by the selling of gilt-edged securities a week or so in advance. This time it was late. It began to get nervous at the loss of gold only a few days before the change occurred, so that there was no "bear" account ready to provide support for the market. As the City thinks in terms of personalities, not statistics, it hardly believed that a change in Bank rate would be made in the absence of the Governor in New York. And $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. had been the rate so long that $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. came as a distinct shock. Moreover, the somewhat illogical view that the New York Federal Reserve Bank would immediately advance its re-discount rate and cause another rise in the Bank of England rate served to depress prices in the gilt-edged market still further. Some recovery has come about this week with the realization (1) that the New York Federal Reserve Bank is not likely to advance its re-discount rate unless the exchange moves steadily against the dollar, and (2) that if the New York Stock Exchange boom has got to be corrected (on which opinions differ), it will have to be done by other means than raising the Federal Reserve rate of re-discount in view of the large supply of money in Wall Street which is not under the control of the banks.

The following table shows how the shock of a $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Bank rate has been felt in the gilt-edged market and in the leading Anglo-American and British shares:—

	Price	Price	Price
	5.2.29.	11.2.29.	13.2.29.
5% War Loan ...	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
Treasury 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ...	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
Conversion 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ...	80 1-16	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
Funding 3% ...	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
Consols 4% ...	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
Int. Nickel ...	\$64 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$59 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$65 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canadian Pacific ...	\$268 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$254 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$261
Victor Talking ...	\$160	\$150 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$155
Imperial Tobacco ...	134/9	133/-	132/9
Courtaulds ...	4 29-32	4 23-32	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

The exchange from Consols 4 per cent. into Treasury 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. which we suggested two weeks ago would have turned out well. Holders of Treasury 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. bonds will be able to take advantage of the probable recovery in long-dated stocks by exercising their rights of conversion next July into 4 per cent. Consols.

The lack of recovery in the ordinary shares of Courtaulds has a special reason. Mr. Samuel Courtauld has written a letter to the TIMES (February 12th) correcting certain figures of estimated production and consumption of artificial silk in 1928 and ending with the following pious hope: "If all concerned in the financing and working of the industry realize how serious the present difficulties are, they may prove to be a blessing in disguise, but it will be disastrous if any blindness to the facts should lead to another outburst of ill-founded optimism." This letter has annoyed the "bulls," who have come to look upon Mr. Courtauld as a near relation of Dean Inge. Mr. Courtauld estimates that while in 1927 sales exceeded production in Great Britain by two to three million lbs., in 1928 production exceeded consumption by at least 5,000,000 lbs., and perhaps by "a very great deal more." For this misfortune he blames the promoters of artificial silk companies in the last two years. If Mr. Courtauld does not want to encourage "another outburst of ill-founded optimism" in the market, is it likely he will recommend another share bonus to his own shareholders? The market is now expecting a final of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. tax free, making 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. tax free for the year. In THE NATION of February 2nd we took exception to the "bullish" propaganda then in circulation which had helped to foist the shares from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to over 5.

The "tipping" of shares in daily newspapers is, no doubt, a mark of public interest in the Stock Exchange, but is the public getting what it wants? When markets are active and "bullish," it is natural to suppose that the "tipping" expert will make his columns pay, but it is rather significant that he never publishes a table showing the relative proportions of "winning" and "losing" tips in the manner of the betting tipster. The ECONOMIST has done a public service in having a test made of the results achieved by an imaginary reader of a daily paper with a national circulation who is presumed to have invested £1,000 (£50 more or less) in each of the tips given in the Stock Exchange page from September 21st to January 21st. The list showed that the selected investments would have cost, inclusive of commissions and 1 per cent. stamp duty, £281,255, and that the value of these investments as at January 21st was £281,775—an appreciation of 0.18 per cent. If the securities had been sold and commission charges on the sales deducted, there would have been a loss of £2,024 or 0.7 per cent. on the capital invested.

Surely this test shows up the futility of newspaper "tipping." It is remarkable that in a period when the INVESTORS' CHRONICLE index number of prices of representative securities showed an appreciation of 1.9 per cent. (from 131.7 to 134.2) the appreciation of selected securities should show a rise of only 0.18 per cent. The newspaper in question, whose identity it is not difficult to discover, obviously goes wrong in requiring its expert to tip three or four securities each day when it is manifest that there are not 1,000 to 1,250 tips available each year, even if the expert were omniscient. As the ECONOMIST asks, What would the racing tipster say if he were asked to tip four horses to win each day even if there were no horses running? And if the newspaper wants to act as its readers' broker, why does it not instruct its expert to tell them when to sell just as he informs them when to buy? The public undoubtedly wants to read about Stock Exchange affairs, but it will sooner or later find the patent-medicine food served out by the Stock Exchange "tipsters" not altogether conducive to good sleep at nights.

The firm of Stock Exchange brokers, whose report on Imperial Finance we noticed in THE NATION of January 12th, has carried its researches further by having an analysis made of the loans raised for Dominions and Colonies between 1900 and 1928 under the heading of Government, Municipal and Business. This analysis brings out some valuable points. In the last ten years business loans in the Empire have been on a smaller scale than in the ten years ending 1914 (£20 millions a year against £33.4 millions), largely because business in Canada is being financed from the United States. On the other hand, Government loans have been on a much larger scale (£51.276 millions a year against £25 millions) largely because Australia has been over-borrowing. Australia, between 1900 and 1928, raised £309,065,000 in this country, which is 56 per cent. of the total loans raised for the self-governing Dominions, or 46 per cent. of the total Dominion and Indian loans, although her proportion of the total overseas trade of the Dominions and India is only 20 per cent. It is obvious that Australia has taken greater advantage of the "preference" offered to Colonial borrowers in the London capital market than any other Dominion. Of the total of £784,626,000 for Dominions and Colonies in this period the Colonies took only £111,447,000, or 14 per cent. The conclusion is drawn in this report that Australia ought to borrow less, and that the undeveloped native Colonies and Dependencies might conceivably borrow more, particularly as the expenditure of loans for the latter is subject to the supervision of the Colonial Office. This is the case for discrimination in Imperial loans which the authorities would do well to consider.

is, no
change,
markets
that the
t it is
rowing
sing"
OMIST
of the
paper
ve in-
given
ist to
nvest-
l per
these
orecia-
d and
would
capital

paper
n the
resen-
cent.
urities
paper
cover,
three
there
if the
What
four
horses
aders'
them
The
change
dicine
' not

rt on
bruary
g an
and
g of
brings
business
an in
£83.4
being
hand,
scale
y be-
, be-
ntry,
self-
inion
total
) per
lvan-
rs in
Of
es in
t per
ralia
ative
more,
er is
is is
the